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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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A VALENTINE.

From the meadow your walks have left
so sweet
That whenever a March-wind sighs
He sets the jewel-print of your feet
In violets blue as your eyes,
To the woody hollows in which we meet,
And the valleys of Paradise.

The slender acacia would not shake
One long milk-bloom on the tree ;
The white lake-blossoms fell into the
lake,
As the pimpernel dozed on the lea ;
But the rose was awake all night for
your sake,
Knowing your promise to me ;
The lilies and roses were all awake,
They sighed for the dawn and thee.

Queen rose of the rose-bud garden o'
girls,
Come hither ! the dances are done ;
In gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls,
Queen lily and rose in one ;
Shine out, little head, sunning over with
curls,
To the flowers and be their sun.

There has fallen a splendid tear
From the passion flower at the gate,
She is coming, my dove, my dear ;
She is coming, my life, my fate !
The red rose cries, " She is near, She is
near ;"
The larkspur listens, " I hear, I hear ;"
And the lily whispers, " I wait."

She is coming, my own, my sweet ;
Were it ever so airy a tread,
My heart would hear her and beat,
Were it earth in an earthly bed ;
My dust would hear her and beat,
Had I lain for a century dead ;
Would start and tremble under her feet,
And blossom in purple and red.

— Alfred Tennyson.

VALENTINE NUMBER

N. S. Edition.



PRIZE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.

Sara A. Underwood, First Prize.
J. Riviera, Second Prize.
F. N. Stevens, Third Prize.
R. B. Buckham, Fourth Prize.
S. E. Gannett, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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SYNOPSIS.

Theo Staples, eldest daughter of the senior partner of Staples & Stilton, publishers, was called by the family the odd one, as she had peculiar ideas on many things. She was a very lovely girl of twenty-three, and desired to enter her father's publishing house to learn the business—more as a means of aiding working women than for any other reason. Her father reluctantly allowed her to do this, and his young partner, Ambrose Stilton, took a great fancy to her, though he could see that she disliked him. Oliver Norman, a foreman in one of the departments, however, attracted her in an unaccountable manner, and they became friendly on account of their peculiar tendencies; they were able to read each other's thoughts, and this led to experiments tried at Theo's home, in which all the family were interested. Oliver Norman was an inventor, and in his spare moments was working on an invention in a little room which had been partitioned off for him, at the publishing house.



BUT there was one who was inwardly furious at what he considered Oliver Norman's upstart impertinence in pushing his way into Miss Staples' good graces. His rage was all the more furious because he, himself, had seemed not to advance one step in his design to win her love and admiration. He understood her sufficiently, however, to recognize that his worst policy would be to show openly his bitter feelings toward

Mr. Norman. This person was Ambrose Stilton.

One evening, however, Mr. Staples gave him a clue which he set to work to use in the furtherance of his purpose. Oliver Norman had completed the work he had been engaged on, and had placed the manuscript in the care of Staples & Stilton for immediate publication.

"Have you looked into Norman's book manuscript, Mr. Stilton?" asked Mr. Staples.

"Heavens, no!" said Stilton with a sniff of contempt. "Seems to me that fellow had better stick to his proper business in the house instead of wasting his time in writing trashy literature, and trying to invent what he probably knows nothing about. You ought not to encourage him, Mr. Staples."

"You don't do him justice, Stilton. As to attending to his business, no man could be more punctual, and if he can hit the right thing in that invention to make the press work more rapidly than it now does, why, it will be money in his pocket; and in ours too, perhaps. Then as to his book; if he chooses to spend his nights in writing, I don't see what business it is of ours. But you ought to look over that manuscript. It's all about that new fangled craze, hypnotism, mesmerism and such things. Theo had him here a few evenings experimenting with her and the girls, and by George! he did some very queer things; put Rose and Anna to sleep, made Anna tell where Rose had hidden some things, made Theo wide awake, tell the number of the page in a book which he held where she couldn't see—I don't understand it at all. I thought perhaps a young man like you would know. He read us several chapters of his manuscript at different times."

Stilton listened intently and remembered that a mesmerist had once said to him that he, himself, had potent power in this direction, but he only said now, as he rose to go:

"Yes, I know a little about those things and I guess I'll go over Norman's manuscript. You know there's a great deal of quackery and fraud about this sort of thing; do you think it's quite safe to allow your daughters to get their heads filled with such nonsense?"

"Wait till you have daughters of your own," Mr. Staples said, "then you'll not talk about 'allowing' them to do this or that."

Ambrose Stilton bade his host a smiling good-night, but as the street door closed behind him, his face took on a savage look and he muttered fiercely:

"So that's your little game is it, Mr. Oliver Norman! You hypnotize the proud Theodora, do you? Well that's a game two can play at," and he threw his head back with conscious strength and power.

The next morning as he glanced through the daily paper his eyes brightened as he read a

certain paragraph.

"So cousin Philip is back from Paris. I'm in luck! Come to think of it, wasn't hypnotism what he went over for, to study that or some other new fad in the Paris hospitals? I'll make him a call and find out what I can."

Dr. Philip Somes, just returned from a year's stay in Europe, was greatly surprised at the warmth of his cousin Ambrose Stilton's greeting when the latter called at his office a few days later. He was still more surprised at the new interest in medical science which he manifested. The doctor, brimming with professional enthusiasm over the wonderful feats accomplished in the French hospitals by Professors Charcot, Binet, and others, in curing disease through hypnotic suggestions, was easily led into detailed accounts of some of these in which his cousin showed such interest that he was invited to be present at some experiments which Dr. Somes and his partner were about to try on one of their patients. This Mr. Stilton readily promised.

Oliver Norman's invention was as yet incomplete—one bit of gearing did not work quite well, and yet he could not see where the fault lay. He had shown it to Messrs. Staples & Stilton; the latter was not particularly interested, but Mr. Staples was quite anxious for its completion and spoke of this anxiety to Theo.

She wondered if Mr. Norman would allow her to see this mysterious piece of machinery. On Mr. Staples mentioning her wish, Oliver readily consented. So one day, accompanied by her father, Theo was admitted in the little workroom which was kept safely locked, save when the inventor was within.

"It seems rather odd, Miss Staples," he said, "to admit a lady into this workroom. So few are at all interested in machinery."

Then he uncovered his model, explaining, as he pointed out each part, its connection with the whole design. He was pleased that Theodora showed by her questions that she followed his meaning and appreciated the possibilities involved in the invention. She evinced a particular interest over the defective part, studied it a little in silence with knitted brow, then expressed a hope that the right idea would soon come; and as they passed out of the room, Oliver felt her bright presence as an augury of coming success.

Two or three days later as he was hurriedly passing her case, she called him to her.

"I fear you will think me very silly," she began in a hesitant way. "Do you believe at all in dreams, Mr. Norman?"

"Well sometimes," he answered, "though my own dreams rarely come true."

"Mine do very often," said Theo, "otherwise I wouldn't think of telling you that last night I had a queer dream about you and your invention. I dreamed that you had solved the difficulty of which you spoke to me; that you came to me with beaming face and cried 'Eureka!' and showed me a diagram which you had drawn on a piece of paper and began to explain it to me—then I woke up, but soon went to sleep and again dreamed that you brought the same diagram to me and seemed worried that I did not understand it; then again I awoke and as it was daylight, I rose, got paper and pencil and drew a copy of the diagram thus impressed upon my mind. Of course I don't suppose that it means anything, but I thought you might be interested to see the diagram of my dream. Here it is," and she gave him a folded bit of paper. As he studied it his face took on a graver expression and finally his eyes turned to Theo with a scared look while his hand shook.

"Miss Staples, this is the greatest thing! Do you know I do think this holds the solution of that refractory gear. May I take this diagram and compare it with my own plans?" He was gone a long time, but at last he came back looking so happy that Theo was prepared for his announcement that the diagram gave him just the hint he needed, to complete the model. He thanked her warmly. "I wish my book were not so nearly out of press, so I could add this confirmatory dream of yours," he said.

It was in October that Theo's determination to learn the printer's art took possession of her. She had worked on bravely through the winter and spring without showing signs of faltering or weariness in spite of her outside work among working women, and her study of Psychology. It was now nearly the first of June, and the family as usual, were preparing to leave the city for the summer months. Theo, absorbed in her new life, at first objected to being included in the general vacation exodus, but within the past week or two her resolution had faltered and she had consented to go to Newport.

Ever since her entrance upon her new duties, her father's partner had been exceedingly cordial and pleasant in his manners to her, but of late he sought her more frequently on the most trivial excuses; frequently bouquets of rare flowers were left upon her case, and occasionally he turned the talk in such channels as offended Theo's taste. What annoyed her greatly now, was the queer and conflicting state of mind in regard to him which she discovered in herself. Out of her sight he was positively disliked; whenever she saw him approach, it was with a sense of annoyance, but all this was

dissipated as if by magic, as soon as he fixed his eyes upon and spoke to her; then there came to her a sense of positive pleasure in his presence, a dreamy, languorous delight in watching every change in his expressive countenance, the graceful gesticulations of his hands and arms in conversation, the frequent change of pose in his supple and athletic figure; and while he talked his sayings seemed full of wit and wisdom; but when she tried afterward to recall what was said, the words seemed to have lost their charm. She had never so far in her life been consciously in love with any man, but the state of her mind toward Mr. Stilton, so perplexed her that she sometimes wondered if the fascination she felt when he was present, could be the beginning of the fatal passion. She could not speak of this to her mother. She sometimes longed to confide her perplexities to Mr. Norman who seemed to her so self-poised and serene; but he was a man, so that was out of the question. So she concluded to go to Newport with the family and think matters out straight by herself. Besides, she found she needed rest as never before in her healthful, vigorous life. A strange, exhausted feeling had come over her lately. Sometimes it was an exertion even to think or talk.

Mr. Stilton was temporarily away on business for the firm when Theo made her sudden decision. So Mr. Staples could not accompany the family party as usual to see them settled comfortably in their summer quarters, but one of his sons went in his place, as much care was required in the removal of the dear invalid mother.

After a few days of Newport life, bathing in the surf, taking long drives and walks, rowing and fishing, Theo began to feel quite like her old self. She concluded she must have been suffering a severe attack of "nerves" as she recalled her strange state of mind in regard to Ambrose Stilton who now appeared to her a most common-place man to whom she was utterly indifferent.

"I must not allow any more of those maudlin conversations to take place. I will snub him severely, once for all on my return," she thought. She felt that she had wholly recovered from her glamour in regard to him, when to her surprise she received a letter from him in which he formally declared his love for her and his desire to make her his wife.

Her answer was not delayed as he had begged, until her return, but was sent at once, a brief but emphatic refusal. "And that puts an end to my printing business," she thought ruefully, "until papa and he dissolve partnership at least, for I could never place myself in a position where he could have access to me again." It was characteristic of her that in this case also, she took no one, not even her mother into her confidence.

Two or three evenings after the day she sent her letter of refusal to Mr. Stilton, she was asked to make one of a party of four to drive to the bathing beach near the cliff walk. The friend who invited her was a lady artist, who wished to catch the moonlight effect on the rolling surf. One gentleman accompanied the party, so Theo felt quite safe to wander on the moonlit sands some distance away from them as the beach at that hour was comparatively deserted. It was ten o'clock and the craggy rocks below the cliff walk seemed to her filled with weird shapes and the air alive with whisperings from uncanny looking nooks. Her own mood was one of peaceful, happy reverie. A vague sense of the possible happiness of mere being filled her heart and brain with beautiful fantasies of a future life better worth living than this. She looked back at the dim group of figures flitting about the artist and tried to fancy herself really alone and that these were water sprites making a brief visit on shore.

Some one laughed; she heard, and that broke the spell. To renew it she walked on further to be out of the sound of their voices. Now she felt quite alone. A light fog hid the curved shoreline on the left as she faced the ocean. How vast and strong and mysterious it looked with here and there a white sail glittering in the moonlight, and afar off specks of light marking the position of sea craft of various sorts. No wonder the Eternity had been likened to an ocean; these points of light might be ministering spirits bent on some great mission.

"Theodora! Theodora!"

As if one stood beside her and called upon her despairingly, she heard this tense cry. It was the voice of Oliver Norman! She turned as in a dream, fully expecting to see him close by, saying as she turned, "what is the matter?"

She started, for she was still alone with not even a bathing-house or rock near by to conceal anything—the wet sand shining under her feet, the sea stretching before, silence and solitude behind, out of hearing distance of the shadowy group of friends.

She waited awestruck, then came once more the distinct call "Theodora! help!"

Twice before in her life she had heard such calls: once when her twin brother aged ten met his death by drowning while bathing several miles away from her; and again when her mother in a runaway met with the accident which had since kept her an invalid.

She understood now. Something, she knew not what, had happened to Oliver Norman in which he needed her aid. With the strong de-

sire which immediately arose in her soul to go at once to him, came the knowledge that somehow she could help him, and came also like a shock the revelation to herself that he held a power over her which no other man had ever held, which no other could hold.

She walked slowly back to her party which was ready to return, and was strangely silent during the drive homeward. The next morning, making the excuse that she wished to attend to some business for the club girls, she took the Old Colony train for Boston, and went directly to the publishing house. She went first to the floor where her own work had been; neither Mr. Staples nor Mr. Stilton seemed to be in.

Intending to return to Newport at once in case her imagination had played her false, she stepped inside the private office and wrote a note to leave for her father. A book of poems which she had loaned one of the girls, lay on the desk, open, with a passage marked; taking up one of the blotters she put it in the book as a mark, and taking the book with her she passed to the lower floor with a quick beating heart, hoping yet fearing to meet Mr. Norman. A glance around the room showed her that he was not there, but Ambrose Stilton came forward to meet her with an inexplicable look of triumph in his dark crafty eyes. She met him coldly and asked only for her father and was told he would not return until late in the afternoon. She asked Mr. Stilton to deliver her note if she did not see him. A little disappointed and fearing she had allowed herself to be too precipitous, she walked on Tremont street slowly homeward. The dear familiar common looked so shaded, so green, and so inviting that she decided as she reached the Park street entrance, to cross to Boylston street by way of it.

The fountain in the Frogpond was playing prettily and she stopped at one of the benches near by to rest and look at it. As she did so she saw Oliver Norman strolling in her direction. He was walking slowly with a dejected, perplexed air quite unlike his usual serenity. When nearly opposite he caught sight of her and came at once to her side with a strange look of relief.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

THE THEFT OF THE KOHINOOR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY J. RIVIERA.

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WE were seeing the Tower of London. Our party consisted of myself, my wife, her sister Allie and Harry Ainsworth. We had been joined at the outset by three strangers, Londoners, judging from their appearance and talk—two men and a woman. This woman attracted me at first glance. She might be described as belonging to the lower fringe of the middle third of London's population. There was that about her which a fastidious man might have called vulgar—a mouth that was just a little too straight, and the most piercing of black eyes. She was rather overdressed, too, but her face was strikingly handsome withal, and her figure was faultless. I thought of a tigress.

One of the men was a typical Englishman,

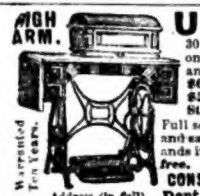
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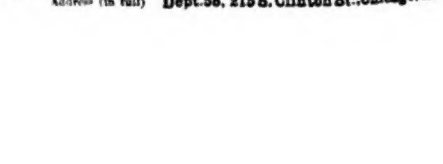
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An ill-favored bar-tender presided behind the

Of course, Dr. Pierce has had many imitators who steal the terms which his advertisements have made familiar, to use them as their "catch-words," and so to draw the attention of women in their direction. The most noticeable feature of these imitations is that, women with dangerous diseases are urged to consult by letter some one who is not a physician, and has neither the educational ability nor the legal right to treat disease. And sometimes, because it is impossible for these advertisers to lay claim to the title of physician, they raise a clamor of "write to a woman." "Woman understands woman," hoping doubtless by this

It is not so easy to find a cab in some parts of London as one might imagine, but finally I caught one and gave the driver orders to post for Scotland Yard. Then, recollecting that I had no money, I checked him long enough to tell him to make the Metropole first. We arrived and I started through the lobby toward the lift. Just as I passed the clerk's desk I heard him say, "There he goes now!" and the man to

whom this was addressed hurried after me. He touched me on the shoulder and said, "I am Inspector Smith of Scotland Yard, Mr. Gregory. I would like to speak to you." For an instant I was elated, and then remembering that we had reason to fear our connection with the escape of the afternoon, my heart stood still. His first words sealed my doom. "You were at the Tower this afternoon!"

Before I could collect myself to reply, a man in uniform ran up to the Inspector and made some announcement in a whisper. The Inspector dropped me like a hot cake, and without so much as a word of explanation ran out of the hotel. I thought I was free but the man in uniform seemed to think otherwise. He caught me by the arm. "Come!" he said.

"What for?"

"H' ask no questions."

"Am I under arrest?"

"H'I dunno. Th' Inspector 'ad ye, h'and h'I h'aint goin' t' letcha go!"

So we went, and got into a cab (not my cab) and were soon tearing down into Whitechapel. Eventually we pulled up at the very barroom where I had left Harry on watch. But before describing the scene that took place on our arrival I will let Harry relate what happened during my absence, as he recounted it to me later.

"After you stepped out," said Harry, "I discovered that by resting my head against the partition at my back I could catch the hum of voices on the other side, very subdued. There was so much noise out around the bar that I could at first make nothing of the dialogue within. Just then in comes a man who is no other than the one you call the husband of the woman—the fattish man as you call him. He had in tow a Sheeny—second-hand clothing man, fence, pawn-broker or whatever you like. The fattish man motioned the Jew to a chair and went and knocked at the door near my seat. They let him in and I heard the woman cry—sort of soft—'Have you got it? have you got it?'"

"He must have handed her something for she said, 'Oh my beauty, my beauty! Millions of dollars! you bring the Jew?'"

"F's h' outside."

"Bring him in!"

"The man opened the door and beckoned to the pawnbroker. When they had him inside I heard him cry, 'The Kohinoor! You haf staid t' Kohinoor!' There was a gurgling as though some one had caught him by the throat and I heard the woman say, 'Not a word, you bound! Peace and you're a dead Jew. Now tell me what that is worth and how we can get rid of it.'"

"You can't not sell that," was the reply.

"Unless—"

"Unless what?"

"Unless you cut him up. And you must take him out of England to do it."

"You gotta divvy with h'us before you take that h'out of h'Eng-land," growled the fattish man's voice.

"If it suits me I will take it," retorted the woman sharply. "But it doesn't. Couldn't we break it?" this to the Jew.

"Yuss—with a hammer."

"You can guess, Gregory, that I was wild at hearing that. But I was afraid to do anything. They got a hammer from the bar-tender and I heard one of them pound the stone several times, while the woman stood and said, 'Careful careful!'"

"Then the stone broke and from the expression of satisfaction it was just right. One of them said there must be a hundred pieces. The woman ordered the two men to go and bring in 'all those cursed fences' she had spoken to. They both went, and after some time the fattish man returned with several Jews, and then the smaller man with some others. They all filed into the room and there was some whispering. I judged that the woman unwrapped the cloth in which they had broken the stone; then I heard a sound—Hoo-hoo—like somebody laughing.

"What's the matter, you ape?" demanded the woman.

"It's glass!" said the voice of the first Jew.

"Glass!"

"There was a shuffling sound as they moved forward to look, and then they laughed too. The woman screamed and there was another sound as though some one had fallen in a faint. And just then you came in, while I was still sitting there listening."

As Harry said, he was sitting on the bench by the partition when my captor and I entered. All the loungers were staring at the partition door, aroused by the woman's scream. Just then the window behind the bar burst open and Inspector Smith plunged through followed by several constables, while a number of them came in from the street. There was instant uproar, which redoubled when they broke into the side room.

The littlest man butted down two policemen and escaped. The fattish man broke through the door and gave Harry a chance to knock him down with a chair. The woman fought like the tigress I had thought her. When she was finally subdued, the inspector had a clawed face and a broken finger.

"The diamond is imitation," I said, as he emerged into the bar.

"I had thought as much," he said. "They would hardly put the real gem on exhibition. But we've got the woman—an American, and the smoothest the Yankees ever produce!"

"I am sorry my man inconvenienced you," he continued. "I did not mean for him to bring you along. You and your party will prove valuable witnesses; you intend to stay in London, of course."

"We came with the intention of staying two weeks," I replied guardedly. And then we said good-night.

"We are going to France," I announced, on reaching the hotel. "Neither of you ladies want any police-court notoriety, and the warders will be good enough witnesses." We went.

"And to think," said Allie, as our steamer drew into the harbor of Calais, "that woman was an American!"

"English they be and Japanese That hang on the Brown Bear's flank, And some be Scot, but the worst, God wot, And the boldest thieves be Yank!"

THE MAN IN THE UPPER BERTH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. N. STEVENS.

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HERE are still many people in western Pennsylvania who remember well the celebrated case of Crayfoot vs. Sinclair. Not only was it one of the hardest fought legal battles of the times, but the verdict, based on the eleventh hour technicality proved a most overwhelming surprise even to the victorious counsel for the defense.

For many reasons not here necessary to explain, the experience had been one of a particularly trying nature to myself. I had, how-

ever, borne up well during the heat of conflict, but no sooner had the enormous strain been removed than I felt myself the veriest wreck, both mentally and physically.

Tormented by forebodings of a serious illness, my only thought was to reach home at the earliest possible moment after the completion of my legal duties.

Court adjourned *sine die* at 4.30 P. M. The first train out was four hours later, an express making but two intermediate stops, one at Altruria, the other at Hammersburg.

Therefore it was that 8.15 P. M. found me in waiting at the depot and my associate members of the bar attending a banquet which had at the last moment been tendered them by prominent townspeople.

The train was late and as I paced the floor restlessly I was electrified to see our client, Sinclair, elbowing his way through the crowded waiting room. He approached me hurriedly.

"Here, Cartwright, do me a favor, will you? Just take this into the office in the morning. There's an even ten thousand and they'll need it before noon. Came near forgetting it!"

I could hardly refuse to take charge of the money, though I must confess to no slight degree of nervousness when it was once in my possession. And, too, I felt irritated in the extreme that he had not chosen some less conspicuous place in which to make known his errand. Even while he was speaking I had noticed one man of sinister countenance watching us with strange intentness. And though no coward, a sensation of mingled depression and annoyance laid so strong and immediate hold upon me that for the moment I would have hailed with relief any reasonable excuse for deferring my trip till morning.

But my berth in the sleeper was already engaged, I had telegraphed my wife when she might for a certainty expect me and there seemed no good reason for delay. I threw off my momentary uneasiness as best I could and laughed at myself as weak and womanish!

Once in the car my first attention was directed toward my vis-a-vis who also boarded the train at Pittston.

A cadaverous face, almost livid in its pallor, with evil-looking, deep-set, black eyes, did not serve to prepossess me in his favor. I was rather impressed with a disagreeable sense of remembrance, though for the moment I did not place him.

He was tall and muscular and though noticeably thin his long, bony arms gave evidence of great strength. "A villainous-looking specimen," was my mental comment, and almost involuntarily I placed my hand on the breast pocket wherein reposed the money.

The movement was illly timed, for at the very same moment he raised his eyes, and in an instant a peculiar gleam shot across his face. It was gone almost as soon as noted, but I had the satisfaction of knowing that if I had for one second been caught off my guard, even so had he. He was the man I had noticed in the depot! He addressed one or two remarks to me but I was not socially inclined. He had an unusually pleasing voice—the voice of a good man, and singularly not in keeping with his face. He offered me the evening paper. I declined it with scant courtesy. Then he beckoned to the porter with whom he seemed on semi-confidential terms. They conversed for some minutes in subdued tones, and from their frequent, furtive glances in my direction I had no difficulty in divining their topic of conversation. The man had seen Sinclair give me the package, and had doubtless overheard his request. He was now planning with the negro how best to secure the money!

I must admit that I felt more disturbed than I cared to confess even to myself. I sized up the other passengers. It chanced oddly enough that although the car was crowded there were not all told half a dozen men present.

The porter went his way and his confederate leaned back in apparent slumber. I was not to be deceived. I knew he was watching me as a cat watches a mouse and not for one minute did I relax my vigilance!

At ten o'clock we both retired. My neighbor, who by the way occupied the upper berth, settled himself at once.

In spite of previous weariness I had no thought of sleep, and all through the early hours of the night I lay with every muscle tense, every sense alert. But I could hear nothing beyond the gentle, monotonous hum-m-m of the cars along the rails.

Occasionally I felt rather than heard the porter creeping softly—it seemed to me stealthily—along between the berths.

At Altruria there was some slight commotion caused by the few passengers who left the cars at that point. The stop was not long but hardly had the cars started again when my curtains were pushed softly aside and the porter peered within. I faced him with a fierceness as startling as it must have been unexpected!

"Beg pardon, sah! Is this for you, sah?" and he held a telegram toward me.

I hastily tore open the envelope and by the

dim light read the message. It was from my wife.

"Meet me at Hammersburg."

Helen."

I stared in wide-eyed astonishment! There was surely some mistake. I looked again at the superscription. "John M. Cartwright. To be delivered at Altruria." My name most certainly, and only my wife knew that I was to be on this train.

I read the message over and over again, each time more mystified than before. This new and unexpected turn in my affairs completely eclipsed all else! My friend in the upper berth, the unwelcome money, the scheming porter, all were alike forgotten!

Helen was not a woman of impulse. Coming from her the telegram meant business, of what nature I was unable to determine. There was no alternative, and I made hasty preparations to leave the train at Hammersburg.

I can not tell whether or not I really expected to find Helen in waiting for me at the station. My mind was in so chaotic a state I do not think I had formulated any expectations. At all events she was not there, neither was there any messenger from her.

Indeed, the whole station seemed singularly deserted. Only one or two employees were about and they answered my anxious queries brusquely and were off. And much to my discomfiture the solitary carriage which had been waiting upon my arrival, also disappeared!

I looked about me undecidedly. The electric lights gleamed pale and cold, but beyond their circle of light all was darkest gloom. Three miles distant the lights of the town glimmered faintly. Doubtless my wife was awaiting me there.

All fatigue, all nervousness was swallowed up in my anxiety for her welfare! I buttoned my coat closely over the package of money and prepared to walk the distance.

I had hardly stepped into the darkness when I became aware that some one was approaching from the rear. Some laborer, I thought, whose company would be preferable to none, and I glanced backward with a positive feeling of relief.

In the dim light I could see the figure of a man who walked with loose, shambling gait. As he came nearer I perceived that he was no laborer, but evidently a traveler like myself. He was headed straight towards me, and I paused and faced him.

His manner puzzled me. He came with head bent forward and hat slouched well over his eyes. He took no apparent notice of my presence till within ten feet of me.

Then he stopped suddenly and pushed his hat backward. One glance at the deep-set, glittering eyes, at the livid face, at the bony frame, and I started back as though struck by an electric current! The man in the upper berth stood before me!

For one moment I was as one paralyzed. Then as I fully realized that I had been the victim of a hellish plot, the calmness of despair settled upon me.

I attempted to speak. He looked at me steadily with those horrible eyes and my tongue refused to move. I tried to raise my hand. In vain!

It seemed to me an eternity that we stood facing each other, when I suddenly knew that I was becoming unconscious. I felt no shock, no hurt, no blow, I experienced no sensations other than those of fading vision and failing strength.

I recovered consciousness to find myself bound hand and foot! I could make no sound—a gag had been thrust into my mouth; and I could move only my head. By turning it from side to side. I saw that I was in a room brightly lighted, and unfurnished save for what seemed to be a long table or bench upon which I was laid flat.

From an adjoining room I could hear the sound of two voices, one, a man's, low, deep, and musical; the other, a woman's, tearful and pleading. Both voices were distinct, and despite my daze and bewilderment, I had a faint comprehension that both were familiar.

I remember that I tried to raise my head. As it fell back with a dull thud, there was sudden crash, the door was flung open, and a woman sprang toward me!

Her eyes were red, her hair disordered, and her face swollen and distorted from much weeping, but I knew her, my God! only too well! It was my wife! She knelt by my side sobbing wildly.

And behind her, creeping stealthily, came a man! Again—there was no mistaking that face, those eyes—the man in the upper berth!

He came nearer and nearer, his eyes fixed steadily upon Helen. He raised his hand as if to strike down, and I—I was powerless to prevent!

I shall never forget the supreme agony of that moment! The sweat stood in cold drops upon my brow. Every muscle stood out like a cord, every sinew was strained to its utmost tension!

I made one superhuman effort! I arose, I wrenched my hands asunder, I—awoke!

The porter was shaking me vigorously. "Half an hour to Franklin, sah!"

I looked at him in a stupefied manner. He repeated himself and turned to go. Mechanically I felt for the package of money. It was safe.

I glanced upward. I knew instinctively that the berth was empty. I leaned forward and beckoned the porter back.

"The man in the upper berth?" I questioned.

"Got off at Hammersburg, sah."

"Who was he?" I demanded.

"The Reverend Mr. Brascombe, pastor of The Heavenly Rest, sah!"

LOVERS OF VALENTINES, LOOK!

To introduce our family monthly paper into thousands of new homes we shall offer a lot of valentines to all who ask for them. Every package will contain a splendid large lot of assorted love and comic valentines. The dainty ones in lace and colors, just right for your best girl or beau and the comic ones will make a horse laugh. Get a joke on your friends. Send twelve cents for a special trial three months' subscription and we will send you the valentines postpaid as a gift.

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A GRUESOME BOLSTER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. B. BUCKNAM.

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WHEN in 1867 the territory of Alaska was purchased by the United States, there were those who were positive that Russia had made the best of the bargain in spite of the fact that most of the \$7,500,000 purchase money was used in St. Petersburg to satisfy old debts and obligations incurred by Alaskan enterprises, attorneys' fees, etc., so that Russia really gave her American possessions to us without

reaping any direct profit from the transfer. Alaska would prove of no value whatever to us even so, such confidently asserted, but the attention which this region has recently received as a result of the discovery of gold within its borders has revealed to the public at large that it is in reality a priceless possession. Alaska is indeed a wonderful country; its rockbound hills possess a grandeur unparalleled; its sea fisheries are a mine of limitless wealth; its forests the densest and most valuable on the continent; and its mineral resources are incalculable.

But to the casual visitor the most wonderful thing in all Alaska is the quinness of the people which inhabit it, the Esquimaux. There are eleven tribes of them in all, stretching from the region of Sitka in the south to the ice-bound shores of the Arctic regions on the north. Of these the Haidas are the fairest skin, most

CURE DRUNKARDS.

ELOQUENT WORDS FROM A WIFE WHO RESCUED HER HUSBAND FROM A TERRIBLE HABIT.

Secretly Gave Him a Remedy in His Coffee and He Now Rejoices With Her.

Who can doubt that there is a cure for drunkenness when we have such an eloquent and emphatic statement from Mrs. Katie Lynch, 329 Ellis St. San Francisco, Cal., she says:—My husband was a hard drinker. There was never a doubt in my mind



MRS. KATIE LYNCH.

but what liquor had so worked upon his nerves as to actually control his appetite. Like most men who drink he was kind and generous when sober but the rum demon usually had the better of him and his wife had to suffer. One day I concluded to try a remedy called Golden Specific, which it was said would cure the liquor habit secretly. So I mixed some of it with Mr. Lynch's food for a few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fear lest he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined not to waver in my attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines, who discovered Golden Specific, will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 886 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, O., and if you wish you are at liberty to refer to me as having told you about this marvelous remedy.

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Cut this ad. out and send to us, \$2.45 NO MONEY and we will send you this watch by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and in every way equal to watches that are being advertised at \$3.75 to \$6.75 under such misleading descriptions as

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is gents' full 18-size Hunting case or screw back and bezel dust proof Open Face, stem wind and set, gold plated, handsomely engraved and polished, looks like high-grade gold filled, and is a great trading watch. movement is nickel 7-jeweled stem wind American, warranted, and a good time-keeper. For Watches from 92 cents up, gold-filled watches \$2.75 and up, write for free Watch and Jewelry Catalogue.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

Intelligent and best dispositioned, while Inuits inhabiting the vast region from the Yukon to the Polar Sea are still for the most part savages, practically unaltered by contact with the white man, and still living as did their ancestors from time immemorial. These people still use the spear and bow and arrow of a remote ancestry, live on the flesh of fish and wild animals, and dwell in underground huts appearing from without like little rounded mounds of earth or snow. They know no law, and never have, but unlike the native Indians of the great plains of the United States are comparatively peaceable, and offer no injury unless provoked.

They are quite nomadic in their habits, often wandering many hundreds of miles from their homes, and thus it comes about that occasionally one of them will reach the haunts of the white man. If a dispute should happen to arise on these chance visits or liquor be at hand, that fearful curse of the uncivilized peoples of all countries, trouble is quite sure to follow, not infrequently ending in crime. Such an incident occurred during my stay at Fort Yukon some years ago, an Inuit having committed murder and almost immediately fled to his home in the Arctic. From the circumstances of the case it was deemed necessary that he should be captured at any cost, and for want of a more suitable deputy, I, being somewhat familiar with the Inuit language and having seen the fellow, was commissioned to secure him and bring him back to the fort, dead or alive.

It was then late in the fall, the long northern winter had already set in, and the ground was covered deep with snow; but journeying by sledge was comparatively easy, and I at once set out, confident that I should fall in with a band of Inuit hunters before having gone far, from whom I could doubtless ascertain the whereabouts of the object of my quest. In this hope I was not disappointed, for at the end of the third day's journey I fell in with a company of these little men of the far north returning from their fall hunt in the mountains. Yes, they knew of whom I spoke, Nougishgac was his name, but he had already gone on to the village. However, they invited me to continue on in their company, as he had been one of their number and could doubtless easily be found. What a different reception would have been mine had they in the least suspected the errand upon which I was bent.

After some days' journeying we came at last in sight of a number of low, snow domes huddled together on the bank of a broad river flowing toward the northern sea, the home of the Inuits. Immediately upon our arrival we learned that Nougishgac was dead, having been killed some days before in a quarrel over a walrus skin. The family clan of which he was a member were in the midst of the days of mourning over his decease, and in accordance with Inuit custom, I, coming in quest of the departed, must become the honored guest of his nearest relative.

The season of mourning for the dead among these strange people continues twenty days, during which time the relatives of the dead ceased abstain from all labor and amusement, and sit motionless in their huts with long drawn faces, in which ceremony the guest is expected also to participate.

Any one who has ever been within an Eskimo hut with its lack of fresh air, unpleasant odors and choking smoke from the huge, constantly burning stone lamp, can readily imagine that the prospect with which I found myself confronted was not a pleasant one. But to have declined to share the hospitality of the mourners would have been a breach of long established custom dangerous in its consequences, and as it would be necessary for me to remain in the village long enough to verify beyond doubt the truth of Nougishgac's reported death and that no fraud was being perpetrated upon me, I could not but accept the situation with as good a grace as possible.

The first night of my stay or rather that portion of the almost endless night devoted to sleep, I managed to endure comparatively well, though with almost sleepless eyes. Our couch, shared by my host and myself alike, consisted of but a layer of poles merely, to raise our bodies above the damp earth; but our pillow was a huge bolster, five feet or more in length, enclosed in a parka, or cloak, and far from soft. Pain would I have slept with none at all, rather than this ungainly affair, but my host would hear to nothing else than that I should rest my head upon it, and I was finally compelled to humor him in this regard in order to maintain peace and friendship.

Our period of sleep was over at last, and I returned again to a sitting posture while my companion proceeded to throw back the end of the parka enclosing our pillow, and gaze steadfastly upon it. I was overcome with abject horror upon observing that it was a human corpse! Then it was that it occurred to me that when an Inuit dies in the fall or winter, it being impossible to bury or burn the dead, his relatives preserve the body until spring, carrying it about from place to place with them, and through some unaccountable superstition using it as a pillow at night and looking upon its features each morning upon awakening.

A second discovery which I then made startled me not a little also. The pallid face before me, though disfigured and distorted as the result of the alternate freezing and thawing which it had undergone from the cold and proximity to the oil lamp, was nevertheless easily to be distinguished as that of Nougishgac.

The hours which slowly dragged themselves away from the time of our arising were, quite naturally under the circumstances, devoted as far as I was concerned to devising some means of making my escape from the gruesome hut and the company of the Inuits, and if my face wore as anxious and disturbed an expression that morning as did that of the mourning relative, it was not due to any attempt on my part to demonstrate grief over the death of the deceased. What would I not have given at that time for a breath of the fresh, pure air of heaven; to be out again in the sunshine of the winter day, of so short duration though it was; or to have been safely back at the fort again!

It is the practice of the Inuit males, during their long enforced term of winter idleness, to resort each day at some time during the brief hours of sunlight to the kashga, or house of public meeting, a hut of much larger proportions than any of the others, capable of holding quite a number of persons at one time. When all have assembled a fire is kindled and the coals sprinkled with water until the hut is filled with clouds of vapor. Then all throw off their garments and dance wildly about in the steam; beating and flogging themselves with reeds and whips until utterly exhausted with the exertion and the profuse perspiration

which ensues, they fall to the floor, or unable to endure the heat longer make their way out to roll in the snow. This is the most enjoyable experience of any in the life of the Inuit, and nothing could induce him to absent himself from this performance; even the mourners for the dead cannot restrain their desire to be present, and so it came about that along in the afternoon my host began to display ever increasing symptoms of uneasiness, and finally prepared to absent himself from the hut.

Nothing that he was able to offer could persuade me to accompany him, for well I knew what was about to take place; then, too, here was an opportunity for which I had been anxiously waiting and which I did not propose to allow to escape me unimproved. No sooner had my entertainer disappeared down the long underground passageway which constitutes the exit of an E-qui-mau hut, than I began active preparations for a hasty flight. At that moment a plan flashed through my brain which I proceeded to put into execution immediately. I would obey my orders to the letter and take the Inuit pillow with me.

The attempt which I was about to make was a hazardous one and would end disastrously with me if unsuccessful, but with the exercise of the utmost caution I hoped to accomplish it in safety. My first precaution was to remove the parka in which the body of Nougishgac was wrapped, fill it with well packed snow and return it to its customary place, that thus the theft which I had perpetrated might not be discovered until the following morning, when upon the opening of the parka my treachery would become apparent. Then cautiously dragging my burden down the long passage, I concealed it among the baggage on my sled without.

Not a soul was in sight as I emerged from the passage door, and if I could but succeed in harnessing my dogs and get well under way before the return of the men from the kashga, I was comparatively safe, as my dogs had no superiors in the village. To catch them, however, was no easy undertaking, as they were scattered about the village with those of the Inuits; but a low whistle cautiously repeated now and then brought them together at last and I was finally on the move.

As I approached the kashga I could hear the muffled shouts of the men at the dance within, and even as I passed its entrance two of their number scrambled out and plunged themselves into the snow, but being blinded with the terrible smoke of the hut's interior or with snow which may have gotten into their eyes, they failed to notice me and I passed on unchallenged.

Whether my host slept on his snow pillow or not, and what his sensations were upon discovering the nature of its contents I never heard, nor am I aware whether or not the chase after me was taken up, or how long and fierce it was; but I do know that upon finally arriving at the fort in safety and delivering up my burden, I was well rewarded for my faithful performance of my duty.

PAP'S VALENTINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY S. E. GANNETT.

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PAP, can I have Nance this morning? I want to go to town.

"Go to town, daughter? It must be something pretty despit to take you to town with the roads in this state." And the man, a long, lean, sawn Arkansas farmer by the name of Bayles, who was at the moment busily engaged in holding up the doorpost while he gave his teeth their after-break fast picking, glanced along the corduroy road deep in February mud.

"Why, you see, Pap," the girl hesitated, "next week comes Valentine's day, an'—an'—"

"Good land!" muttered the man to himself, as he stared at the girl, taking in the witching dark eyes and rosy, dimpled face framed in its clustering curls, "ef she bea'n't a'growing up a'ready! Seems like 'tain't but a year or two sence I was a'buying valentines for her Maw, an'—now—here's Mirandy's been dead this two year, an' this baby—why, how old be you, now, Maisie?"

"Sixteen, Pap; don't you remember I told you last week I'd got a birthday?"

"Yes, yes, but I can't believe it. You're as old as your Maw was when I was a'cotin' her, sure enough. Well, who is the lucky one to be?"

The girl gave her head a toss, and her merry laugh rang out as she answered:

"Nare a one, Pap, but they's two of 'em is dead sure I'll send to him and to nobody else, and I'm—"

"Ho! Goin' to fool 'em both, be you? Well, go on. Young folks must have their fling; but I wish my valentine hadn't had to leave me quite so soon." And he glanced wistfully around at the disorderly room, the unswept floor and dirty windows, and then out at the group of frowzy, uncared-for children playing in the yard.

The girl saw the look and bit her lip.

"Pap can't expect me to give up all my fun and stay at home just to grub round," she muttered. "I'd be an old woman in no time if I did. I want to have a good time like the other girls," and then, as her father slowly and dispiritedly strolled away to his day's work she hastily cleared the breakfast table, called to a younger sister to help her, made a few preparations for dinner, and leaving everything else in the care of twelve year old Jennie, she mounted Nance and rode off to town, wearing her oldest gown and picking her way

gingerly through the awful mud. A few twinges of conscience troubled her as she remembered neglected duties, but she quickly stifled them, and rode on.

"Howdy, Maisie!" shouted a gay young voice as she dismounted at the village store. "Goin' to the Valentine party next week?"

"Haven't heard anything about it. Where is it at?" replied Maisie calmly.

"Sure enough? Why, it is to be here in the village at Betty Wilder's. You'll get an invite, I know. Swell thing it's going to be. Say, here's your note now," as the postmaster handed Maisie her mail. "Now you'll let me see you home that night, won't you? Don't you go with Dick Somers, whatever happens."

"I sha'n't promise. I'll have to think over the matter a bit first," and with a word to Nance, Maisie cantered off, leaving Tom Bird-sall ruefully glowering at Dick Somers, who, on horseback, was hastening in Maisie's direction.

Valentine's day came with a most unusual sight for Arkansas—a furious snowstorm—and by evening the ground was white with snow. The mud beneath was frozen in deep ruts, making traveling anything but pleasant; but no matter! Such a chance for a sleigh ride did not occur in this locality once in a winter, and all were disposed to make the most of their opportunities. Both Somers and Bird-sall had hastily constructed for themselves sleighs of dry-goods boxes mounted on rude wooden runners, and each of them having received that morning a gay and flimsy lace affair yeipect a valentine, adorned with cupids, hearts and arrows galore, and vowing

"To be ever true

To only you! to only you!"

thought Maisie had surely made him her "lover true," and hastened to present himself, with his elegant "rig," at her home in readiness to drive her to the scene of the party.

Maisie's eyes danced with fun as she saw them drive into the yard at the same time, glowering at each other as they came on; but her face was grave and concerned as she opened the door and cried:

"Oh, how could I have been so careless! I certainly thought, I—well, never mind now! I am not going to say, as long as both of you are here, which of you I asked to come for me to-night. I thought I sent a note, but since I did not I'll have to ask Dick to drive me over and Tom to bring me home. Won't that do?" and the bewitching face, framed in its soft pink hood, smiled brightly upon both the young men.

There seemed to be no other way out the difficulty; so, although each of the young men scowled blackly upon the other, Tom turned his horse and drove off, while Dick helped Maisie over the side of his dry-goods box, and tucked his mother's shawl, which served as a robe, carefully about her before following Tom's lead.

The evening passed merrily. The gay little god of love showered his favors, consisting of cakes, bonbons and souvenirs, impartially upon all, and punch flowed so freely that, as the hour for breaking up drew near, many of the young men were decidedly in need of an escort instead of performing that service for the ladies.

Dick, disappointed in his hope of seeing Maisie home, had grown more and more surly as the evening wore on, and the more punch he imbibed the gruffer he became. Instead of driving off by himself, or choosing another lady than Maisie for company, he kept near Tom's sleigh, and did all he could to make his and Maisie's ride uncomfortable.

At length they reached a narrow part of the road, where the earth, washed away by the heavy rains of that part of the country, dropped suddenly down to a depth of twenty feet, with no railing to protect its edge. Dick, who had driven ahead of the other team, suddenly turned, lashing his horse to a gallop, and bore straight down, in his drunken rage, upon the other horse, which reared, plunged, and backed to the edge of the precipice. Tom, finding all efforts to stop him unavailing, flung the reins over the dashboard and leaped to safety, leaving Maisie to her fate.

Quick as a flash, however, the girl sprang forward on the edge of the box, balanced herself there a second, and, by another quick leap, reached the back of the frightened horse, and, seizing the trailing reins, with a sharp cut of the whip forced him forward to firm ground. Then, sliding to the road, in spite of all Tom's solicitations and apologies, she set off aloof for home, deigning neither a look nor a word to her cowardly escort.

Maisie got no sleep that night, but spent the time in reviewing in her mind the conduct of her two cavaliers and of herself. She was very subdued and thoughtful at the breakfast table, and made but short answers to the questions of her father and the children as to the events of the preceding night. As to the ride home she said not a word to any one.

At noon that day, as he came in to dinner, Farmer Bayles was astonished to see the kitchen shining with cleanliness, the table neatly set and covered with a tempting dinner, and surrounded by the children with clean hands and faces and nicely combed hair, while Maisie, following him into the washhouse shyly said:

"Tom and Dick are neither one of them any good, Pap. I'm going to be your valentine if you'll have me?"

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M. M. Fenner's Specific cures. By mail, send for Circular, Fredonia, N. Y.

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Catalogue for 1899 is beautifully lithographed in colors and is full of new things. We have a new Cabbage, Lettuce, Aster, Peony, Pansy and Sweet Pea. Not one has been named and we will pay \$50. Cash for a name for each. Special Offer! We will mail one packet of 6 names to each of our subscribers. If you send us 6 names we will send you a packet of 6 names. If you send us 12 names we will send you a packet of 12 names. If you send us 24 names we will send you a packet of 24 names. If you send us 48 names we will send you a packet of 48 names. If you send us 96 names we will send you a packet of 96 names. If you send us 192 names we will send you a packet of 192 names. If you send us 384 names we will send you a packet of 384 names. If you send us 768 names we will send you a packet of 768 names. If you send us 1536 names we will send you a packet of 1536 names. If you send us 3072 names we will send you a packet of 3072 names. 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Our New Colonies and Interests.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE greatest interest now attaches itself to the construction of the Nicaragua canal, which should be at once pushed to a finish and completely under American control. One drawback to the construction of this canal has been a provision in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty between this country and England by which both nations agreed that when such a canal should be built it should be under joint protection of America and England and necessarily under joint control. The mutual jealousies of the two countries have tended to show each other that the division of importance was not equal and that one nation would receive more advantage than the other with its completion. The present attitude of England indicates that the outcome of the Spanish War has rendered an early construction of the canal of first and greatest importance to the United States, and she seems ready to let our country undertake the work alone and without hindrance, by the abolishment of this treaty.

The attention of our people was called to the great necessity of a canal when the battleship Oregon made her famous run from San Francisco to Florida, and being obliged to traverse the South American coast on both sides and make frequent landings for supplies and coal, which would have been unnecessary had there been a canal either at Nicaragua or still further down at the Isthmus of Panama. The idea of a canal is by no means new, for ever since the discovery of gold in California in 1849, and even earlier, there have been such enterprises projected.

For many years the favorite location for such a canal has been across the Isthmus of Panama, and many schemes have been devised for such a canal. Even the idea of immense dry docks on wheels to convey steamers bodily across was seriously contemplated. The great De Lesseps canal to be constructed by a French company at one time was apparently the successful one; but wasteful extravagance and poor business if nothing worse entirely wrecked this company, and to-day the immense work is the same as abandoned.

Farther up on the continent is Nicaragua and a glance at the map will show that here the land is much wider than at the Isthmus, but it has certain natural advantages. Half way across the continent is an immense lake, called by the name of the country, from which the San Juan river flows easterly to the Gulf of Mexico at the port of Greytown.

Opposite the middle of the lake on the Pacific coast is the harbor of Brito. The most thorough survey ever made has now caused the United States Commissioners to adopt what is called the "low level" route. The so-called Maritime route contemplated practically following the San Juan river to the lake as a shorter distance; but the Lull "low level" survey starts from Greytown and takes advantage of certain low levels which make eleven miles longer to the lake, which is forty-two miles from Greytown on the Maritime route. Part of the way will be lake navigation and the entire distance, including the lake travel, from Greytown to Brito is one hundred and eighty-two miles. It is estimated the canal will cost \$184,000,000 complete and will probably be built under government supervision. The project has been debated and postponed times without number, but with our present territorial interests delays are no longer possible and without doubt the present Congress will take steps to have active work on the construction of this waterway taken at once.

The government of the United States has not taken Cuba as a part of her possessions but under the treaty of peace is responsible for the maintenance of order and peace within that country. The position of Cuba to-day is very much the same as that of the Confederate States after the Civil War in our own country. There is neither a responsible government of Cubans, nor has the Spanish government any more authority, having vacated the island; and as a consequence the only form of government that is at present maintained is the military government of the United States.

The President of the United States appoints a Governor General of Cuba, who is invested with supreme authority and really represents the government of the United States until a stable government shall have been formed and given possession by our country. This provisional government went into effect on the first of January, 1899, at which time with due military pomp and ceremonies the Spanish flag floating over public buildings was lowered, and received the usual military salutes; to be immediately replaced by the American flag, which was also saluted by both armies.

To this extremely important position President McKinley has nominated Major General John R. Brooke who, our readers will remem-



GENERAL WOOD.

ber, was in command of the army of invasion at Porto Rico; and but for the sudden signing of the protocol of peace would have captured San Juan as he had already done Ponce and other places. His army was just deploying for

a battle at the time the aide galloped up to General Brooke and presented the order for peace, an order which is said to have filled the American soldiers with feelings of bitterest disappointment so anxious were they to encounter the Spanish soldiery, who were equally anxious to test their own merits.

It will be remembered that the island of Cuba is divided into six provinces, the names of which are familiar to all newspaper readers, as they have been in the press reports for the last few years during the insurrection, and consequently are familiar both as to name and locality. Each of these provinces has its own military governor who serves under Governor General Brooke. Major General Fitzhugh Lee,



SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

who left Havana at the outbreak of the war, amid the jeers and execration of the populace, and who from the deck of the departing steamer called to them that he would return, now has the opportunity to make good his prophecy, as he has been appointed the governor of the province of Havana, which is the most important province of the island both commercially and because within it is Havana, the capital city. At the head of the military government of the city of Havana is Major General William Ludlow. He is under the supervision of General Lee and subordinate to him, exactly as General Lee is subordinate to General Brooke; but the position is a most important one as all the details of the city government, police and sanitary regulations, and all such municipal details are under his immediate direction. General Ludlow was at one time Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and it was in this capacity that he first came under the President's notice. He has great ability and experience, and being a civil engineer of the highest rank will have the necessary qualifications for practical administration in the completion of the sanitary and municipal improvements which are to be undertaken in the city and harbor of Havana.

Few of our readers comprehend the vast importance of this military government. Cuba is undoubtedly the richest island in the world; of the greatest natural resources and inexhaustible soil it has been well termed the Garden of the Antilles. For centuries it has been milked of its riches by outrageous taxation by the Spanish government, which has looked upon the island as fair prey. Its people have been kept in a state of illiteracy and subjugation hard for Americans to comprehend. The conduct of the native Cubans during the war would seem to prove that they are utterly unfit at the present time for self-government; nor would it be right towards the Spaniards, who form the best part of the population of the island, to let loose a mob of native Cubans upon them without restraint. The American who has been in Cuba has no sentimental idea about that population, and knows that while many Cubans are highly cultured and fine specimens of manhood and womanhood, the great bulk of Cubans are hardly up to the standard of modern civilization.

Having driven the Spaniards out of Cuba, it became necessary then for the United States, without desire for conquest, to take possession of the island until such time as it can be seen what will be the best for the future. The same rule has been applied in hundreds of instances, and even now there are countries which are not British colonies where it is impossible to maintain practically an English protectorate in

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order that the native government shall carry out the wishes and intentions of England, and give justice to all people within their borders. That some such solution of the problem will be necessary with Cuba nobody doubts; and with the great influx of American capital and American interests which will certainly follow the ratification of the present peace treaty, the financial and material interests of the island will be largely in the hands of British and American people within two or three years. It would be as much folly to expect that under such circumstances the final government of Cuba will be given into the hands of people adverse to the interests of the United States, as to expect entire surrender of State government to the colored population at the present time in the South; and our readers may be sure that a firm military government will be maintained (CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.)

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A Bear Hunt in the Himalayas.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE is one part of British India, where you may enjoy fine sport in the midst of magnificent scenery and a splendid climate for nine months of the year, and that is the Himalayan hills, between the altitudes of 5,000, and 10,000 feet; below 5,000 it is too hot at times, and above 10,000 it is equally too cold.

Some of the best bear hunting I ever had was in company with the old Kumaon rajah, the Goorkha king whose territory had been annexed by the English forty years ago (when he was quite a boy) and who has ever since lived quietly in his own capital on a pension of \$3,000 per annum from the British Government. It is a remarkable instance of the aptitude of the English for conquest that they should have taken by force of arms this ancient kingdom of Kumaon, and held it peaceably ever since, though it is not garrisoned by a single British soldier, the only troops in it being generally two battalions of its own people in the pay of the British Government.

I had made the acquaintance of the Kumaon rajah by having been fortunate enough to relieve him from a very unpleasant position. I was out shooting pheasants in a rhododendron forest when I heard loud shouts, and on hastening to the spot I found the Kumaon rajah up a tree, his gun lying on the ground, which he had evidently dropped in climbing; and at the foot of the tree a large black she-bear with a broken foreleg, who could not climb the tree, but was scratching and snarling in a most unpleasant way. I relieved him by neatly putting a bullet through the brute's heart as it stood on its hind legs snarling at the rajah; since which he had always sent word to me when he heard of any "shikar" and of course he always got the first information from the country people who knew his devotion to the sport.

I was lying in the veranda of my bungalow after tiffin one day, when the rajah's head shikaree, Omrah Deen, appeared, and salaaming low, said, in the hill patois: "The rajah, sahib, has heard of three 'reis' (bears) at Baghesur," mentioning a village on a river about twelve miles off, "he starts at sundown to sleep there and attack them in the morning, and he hopes you will accompany him." "Good," I said, "I will be at Baghesur at ten this evening."

The haunts of the bear are rocks on a hillside, particularly those overlooking cultivated valleys; they sleep all day in caves, and come out at night to feed in the sugar-cane plantations. They do not stay long in the same cave if at all disturbed, but move about the country from cave to cave. Many of these caves are very deep. I have been in some running for one hundred yards in the hillside, and six or eight feet high, perhaps twenty feet wide at the mouth, and narrowing away into the interior. The bears sleep in a mass together at the far end, and are often difficult to get out. The natives take advantage of a favorable wind when they have tracked a bear to a cave, and light large fires of wet leaves; the smoke, driving into the cave, sometimes forces the bears out, but it is tedious work, taking some hours. The natives hide themselves behind pieces of rock, and shoot poisoned arrows at the bears, as their great object is to get rid of them for the sake of their crops and honey, getting the flesh and skin being a secondary object, and hardly considered worth the danger, they being very fearful of the bear.

The rajah and I dined together that night at Baghesur. We turned in early, and by three the next morning the camp was astir. After two delicious massocks of ice-cold glacier water from the river, I had a cup of tea, lit a cheroot, and felt "fit" for any bear.

My arms were my shot-gun, with a bullet in left barrel; in my waist-belt a five-barrelled revolver and huge *couteau de chasse*, or sword bayonet, which would fix on to my short breechloading rifle, carried by my gun coolie, who also had some of my ammunition.

We strolled down to the river by starlight, the rajah and I with our gun coolies, his head shikaree, and a villager who had tracked the bears the day before to their cave, and crossed on two inflated buffalo skins; the other shikarees and beaters went up the river to cross at a ford, and beat the cultivated flat ground up to the hills where we were to be posted.

On arriving at the foot of the rocky cliffs, the villager showed us a sort of track winding up the sides, which we covered with low brushwood, and which he said led to some caves about two hundred feet higher, and that, about a mile on, there was another track which ran back to the same caves and that the bears would come up one of these at daylight or when disturbed. It was settled that I and my gun coolie should go up the first track, and that the rajah and his men should go on to the next one, as it was a wider one, with branches, and required several men to be on the watch, lest the bears should slip by and get into caves unperceived. I was glad, before I had gone many hundred yards, that it was the coolest part of the twenty-four hours, for the track was very steep and very rough—hand-and-feet climbing most of the way—and by the time I reached the caves, and stood on the platform of rock in front of them, I was running with perspiration. From this spot I had a view of the whole valley, and could see the beaters just crossing the ford, preparatory to beating the flat ground below us, which was covered with sugar-cane and plantations. In the distance were the snowy summits of the highest Himalayas, thirty thousand feet, now gloriously tinted with red and gold from the beams of the rising sun, which had just caught them. As soon as I had recovered my breath I took a survey of the caves and their approaches, and quickly observed a projecting rock, round which the pathway or track wound about fifty yards below the cave. Behind this I and my gun coolie ensconced ourselves. I placed a two ounce bullet in each barrel of my smooth-bore, which I held in my hand, as the handiest and deadliest at close quarters; in my rifle held by the coolie I placed a shell bullet with a percussion head, and fixed the sword on ready for an emergency.

Soon the shouts and cries of the beaters disturbed the valley below and raised up clouds of birds—ducks from the river, and pheasants and hawks and pigeons from the cliffs. We had been peering over the rock behind

which we were ambushed for some ten minutes, when my gun coolie gave me a nudge, as his quick ear detected something coming up the track, and in less than a minute appeared the shaggy black head of a bear shambling up the track. I cocked both barrels, determined to give him a broadside as he passed our ambush-cade and then to seize my rifle to finish him.

As he approached our rock we could hear him growl as his nose evidently detected us, but his desire to get to the cave, away from the row of the beaters, was apparently stronger than his prudence, and in half a minute his black head and forequarters loomed out between me and the sky as he trotted along the edge of the track. Bang! bang! went both my barrels pointed behind his shoulder, and in a cloud of smoke and dust he rolled over the precipice, and crashed through the rhododendron bushes.

I handed my gun to the coolie to reload, and seizing my rifle I moved to the edge to look after him and see if he required anything more in the shape of a quietus. About twenty yards below his carcass had caught in a thick bush, and I could see he was recovering and trying to get his footing. I immediately raised my rifle, and was peering about to get a fair shot at him between his eyes, which I could hardly see for the intervening bushes, when an unearthly yell from my coolie made me quickly look round, and, behold! four yards from me two bears rushing up the track. One, a half-grown one, rushed, apparently to get past me, and get up to the caves, while the bigger reared on its hind legs and evidently meant fighting. As the young one approached me I lowered my point and lunged at its chest, but it caught the sword in its mouth, and the point came out of its cheek on the other side. I had just time to observe this, and was about to withdraw it when the big bear rushed at me and knocked me backwards. In falling I managed to get my face downwards to save it and my chest from the clawing that I expected, but to my surprise directly I felt the bear left me and went to the young one, who was kicking up a tremendous row about the sword in its cheek.

I rose as quickly as I could and shouted to my coolie for the smooth bore. He was standing on the rock, up which he had climbed for safety, and was screaming for help, though there was no one to hear him; but almost as I rose the young bear got his head clear of my rifle and sword and he and the big one, which was evidently the mother, trotted off down the hill again. I discharged my revolver at their vanishing sterns but apparently without effect; and now I heard the scramblings of the first wounded bear trying to get up the cliff; his advent, though, I awaited with the utmost composure, as I was sure he must feel very sick after my broadside. I crouched down and soon his forepaws appeared on the edge of the track. I stepped up and as his head appeared uttering fierce growls I plunged my point into the center of his chest. A dark stream of blood poured out and the bear fell backwards and disappeared, crashing through the underwood.

I now retired to the old corner behind the rock, and refitted; my right arm was torn with the she-bear's claws; this I tied up; my rifle was much bruised and dented, and the sword was slightly bent by the efforts of the young bear to free himself; however, nothing had happened to impair me or my weapons, and I was soon ready for anything that might turn up. In a few minutes I heard two quick discharges, and then one from the direction of the rajah and loud shouts. I hurried up the track to the mouth of the caves, thinking to intercept any bear that might have passed his party. However, I waited there some minutes but nothing appeared, though another shot and loud shouting came from the same spot; and as I heard from the noise below that the beaters were nearing the foot of the cliff, I hurried back to my old ambush, in the hopes of the she-bear and young one appearing again. Soon the shouts below me redoubled, and we could hear the cry of "Reis! reis! reis!" I now took up my position with my rifle, kneeling on the track, looking down, and close to the projecting rock, behind which I could spring if I should fail to bring down anything coming up, and in a few minutes a three-quarter grown bear came shambling up the path, followed by a yapping dog of the village, on whom he turned every now and then. He did not see me at first, and waited until he was within twenty yards, then his little eyes caught sight of me and glistened with rage. He uttered low growls and redoubled his pace; but the bead of my foresight was on his nose. I pulled, and the animal turned head over heels like a rabbit. My coolie handed me my smooth bore, and I hurried up, but he was quite dead, and the village dog was worrying his carcass. The shell bullet had struck just below the left eye, having grazed along his nose (my aim had been the point of the snout), and apparently exploded at once, as all that side of the head was blown open, and the ear hanging down. By the time I had done examining and measuring the brute some of the beaters appeared on the track I had come, so there was nothing more to expect from that quarter. Leaving my gun coolie to point out to the shikarees where my first bear had fallen over, I hurried on to see what the rajah had done. On arriving, I saw the rajah's shikaree, Omrah Deen, lying down, looking very sick, and a good deal of blood about; the rajah's rifle, with the barrel bent to an angle of forty-five degrees, and a half-grown bear lying dead on the path. It appears that the young bear had appeared first, when the rajah had knocked it over with a double shot, and that Omrah Deen had run out with a kookree to settle it, and drag it off the path. While so employed a great she-bear had come up suddenly, and clawed his back; the rajah had run out with his rifle, and afraid to fire for fear of hitting his man, had crammed the muzzle into the animal's mouth. He then, as he affirmed, pulled the trigger with the muzzle pointing at its head, but I expect the bullet must have gone out of its cheek; however, the brute had bent the barrel nearly double, and then scuttled off up the path, and must have got into the cave before I arrived there. Soon afterwards another bear had come up the path at which the rajah had fired, with what effect he knew not, as the beast had turned and run down the path again. Some of the beaters said that they had seen another bear get up to the caves by some track we had not known of; this was probably the bear that the rajah had fired at last.

We now all moved up to the caves to see what we could do for the bears inside. There was no wind stirring, so a fire was hopeless to smoke them out; however, by the fire made we got some hot tea and chupattees; and our coolies indulged in the social hubble bubble, made of a cocoa-nut, which was handed from one to another. Omrah Deen began to feel rather faint from the loss of blood from the

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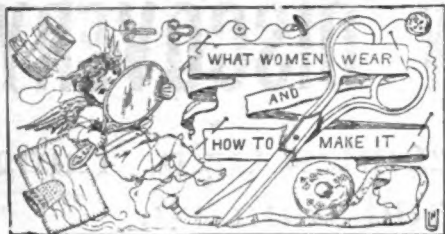
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



E are with one accord adopting the newest of new skirts, which fasten over in front, so that nothing may mar the beautifully-fitting simplicity of the perfectly plain back. These skirts are particularly easy to hold up, those which are practically untrimmed being, to my thinking, the most attractive. Such a one, for instance, made in bright violet cloth, has half-a-dozen rows of stitching to sweep down the center of the back, another group outlining the place of fastening in front—that is all; while a double-breasted coat, just covering the waist line, continues the line of stitching, and boasts, perhaps, of a row of crystal buttons. Such a costume will have a specially useful career, if you have an indoor bodice made of the cloth quite simply, with just a knot of mauve satin, and a cascade of lace to fasten it over the left side, and then you also provide yourself with a tucked silk shirt, whose aim and object it will be in life to save the cloth one from crushing, and to be worn in its place under the little coat when taking your walks abroad.

In the cigar-brown, tan, black, or dark blue the costume will look equally well, and in its elegant and distinguished simplicity, will hold its own among any number of more elaborate gowns.

Of course, some of these skirts are decorated with bordering frills or waved lines of stitched strappings, and so forth, but, in their untrimmed aspect, they are, I think, at their smartest.

The polonaise skirt is, it must be confessed, painfully unbecoming to the average woman, so, though it is being shown by all the smartest houses and worn by a few of our elegantes, it is not likely to become popular. In fact, it is at all times an impossible style for any woman who is not of the "divinely tall" order.

Still another novelty is a skirt—of cloth, of course, seeing that no other fabric is allowed any chance nowadays—with a deep shawl point, bordered with triple tucks, falling to the hem of a plain under-skirt, both in front and at the back, the sides rising to a level of the knees. This is rather a graceful style, as I was compelled to admit when I saw it exemplified by a Parma mauve cloth gown. The bodice, in Van Dyked tucks at the back and sides, but with a plain plastron front, which displays a tiny vest and diminutive revers of lemon yellow. So it only remains for you to pay your money and take your choice of skirts only let me beg of you to study your stature, and carefully consider your waist and hip measurements before you do so choose.

Let me tell you of the smart simplicity and perfect taste of the last new hat, which is made in felt cloth, with a *rouleau* of velvet to bind the sailor brim, which is tilted up a little at the left side with a cluster of flowers—dahlias and roses, say, in the case of a mauve hat, while for sole trimming there is a species of bow at the left side, which is like nothing so much as five curved leaves of graduated size placed one inside the other, and fashioned of silk and satin, shading from palest pinky mauve to deepest violet. It looks lovely, too, in cerise felt ribbon, while it is demurely dainty too in grey.

I must now introduce to you two evening gowns, whose charms I believe will specially interest you. One displays the fashionable chenille embroidery, where trails of fuchias, pink and purple, are wrought on pale mauve



THE NEWEST SKIRT.

chiffon, which in its turn veils blush-rose pink; the touch of black tulle at the *decollete* and in the puffs of the short sleeves are particularly effective. The other gown is destined for wear by a superbly handsome woman, whose dusky hair, black eyes and clear complexion will be set off to perfection by the white satin veiled

with jet embroidered net, and relieved by a deep-folded waistband and corsage bow of yellow and orange silk.

Either of these gowns might be copied very easily by means of the embroidered overskirts and bodice lengths, which fashion introduced during one of her kindly moods, when she gave a thought to those folks who had to be economical, but still desired to be fashionable. I really believe that evening gowns get richer in embroidery and precious stones daily. A very lovely one seen lately was built in the Princess style of rich blue velvet, perfectly plain, and perfectly fitted, bordered round the trailing skirt with a very deep silver embroidery in the form of huge lilies and their leaves; encrusted on the silver were pearls and gold paste, the latter sparkling with brilliant effect, as you may imagine. This beautiful embroidery figured on the *decollete* also, and down the left side of the gown, which was otherwise unadorned. It certainly looked lovely and so did another dress of less costly material and more simple style, being worn by a younger woman. The foundation of this gown was cream colored satin, which, on the bodice, was veiled with sequinned and jeweled net in quite



THE LATEST HAT.

a novel way. Quite unique were the sleeves, fashioned partly of lace and partly of mousseline frills, while the shoulders were ornamented with loops representing true-lover's knots of cerise velvet. The same idea was carried out on the skirt which was flounced with sequinned net, and headed by an embroidery of silver.

The new white net boa is decidedly becoming and dainty. The white net you must know, is thickly quilted in graduated form, very thick and broad in the center and tapering off almost to a point at either end, and then over the whole is sprinkled black chenille spots, which gives it very chic style. Needless to say these net boas are the *dermier cri*. In all colors they are made to correspond to hat or gown with which they will be worn. A very sweet shade is mauve with either white or black spots dispersed on its surface, and again, blue or green are equally charming and modish. In feather boas, white seems most popular although for slender purses the fashion is the reverse of economical, for nothing looks worse than a dirty white; therefore, let me beseech you not to invest in one of such delicate nature unless



A PRINCESS GOWN.

you are prepared to replace it for a fresh one as soon as signs of wear and tear are seen. Rather have a black one that will brave all signs of dust and fog, but even then do not wear an ostrich feather boa when there is any likelihood of damp, for all the pretty curl will vanish and nothing but a long straight unsightly mass of feathers will be left to you.

Blue and mauve is a particularly stylish mixture, originating, of course, in Paris, where some of the very smartest of gowns have been created with the blending of these two shades.

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Dr. Wuerth states that he invariably uses Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets in all cases of stomach derangements and finds them a certain cure not only for sour stomach, but by promptly digesting the food they create a healthy appetite, increase flesh and strengthen the action of the heart and liver. They are not a cathartic, but intended only for stomach diseases and weakness and will be found reliable in any stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach. All druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at 50cts. per package.

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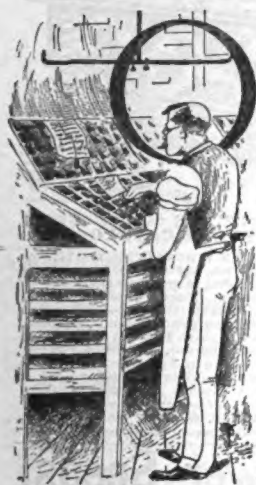
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HOW BOOKS ARE MADE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



If the great army of book-buyers, book-readers and book-lovers in this country, how few have any idea of the processes that enter into the manufacture of a volume. More than the most casual knowledge of the processes through which an author's manuscript must go before it finds its way to the shelves of the dealer is something possessed by not one person in a hundred. To briefly sketch these processes is the object of this article, believing that it will be of interest to all who read or buy books, and may inspire a desire to investigate further the fascinating industry of book-making.

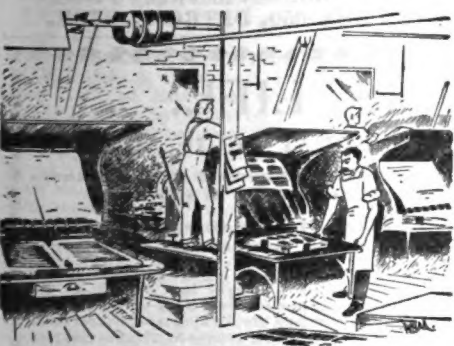
The large book-printers usually deal with publishing firms, seldom with the author direct. This is because the publishers are able to advertise the book more widely, and because they have a force of editors and proof-readers who can look out for the technical points in the work. The author selects his publisher (if he is well-known; if he is obscure he searches for his publisher). The publisher selects his printer and his engraver. If the work is to be illustrated it is sent first to the engraver, who makes the cuts, wood-engravings, zinc etchings, half-tones, or whatever they may be. The manuscript and the cuts are then sent to the printer.

The author's manuscript, or "copy" as it is called, is now given to the compositor who sets it up in type. The process of type-setting consists in taking the pieces of type, each of which represents a letter, out of the case which contains them, and arranging them to form words and sentences. As many words as can be conveniently put into a line are set up, then the space between the words is increased or decreased until the line is of exactly the required length. On plain books, requiring only one size and style of type, a type-setting machine is used. These machines are comparatively a new invention, but have proved of immense value in the printing office. The type-setting machine used in newspaper offices does not set the actual type, but casts each line solid, so that the change in a letter necessitates the re-setting of a whole line. This would never do in book-work, except on books which are merely reproductions, as the author or publisher makes numerous changes in almost every page of proof. Therefore a machine is used which sets the actual type, and letters and words can easily be changed.

The type, after it has been set is tied up in strips of convenient length and put on a hand-press, where a proof is taken. The proof-presses used to-day are an almost exact copy of the finest presses known in the time of Franklin. In the office referred to here, there is at present on exhibition an old printing-press on which Ben Franklin himself is said to have worked. At that time it was the finest piece of printing machinery known. At the present time, except for the associations connected with it, it sinks into insignificance beside even the cheapest proof-press.

The proof is taken to the proof-reader, who reads it aloud to his assistant, and all mistakes noticed are marked. Horace Greeley said that one of the qualifications of a proof-reader was that he must never make a mistake. Mistakes do occur, but the number is surprisingly small with a good reader.

The compositor who set the type now takes the proof and makes the changes indicated. The type is then taken by the "make-up," who measures it off into page lengths, inserts the cuts in their proper positions, puts on the headings and ties a string around the page to hold it firm. A clean proof, called a revise, is now taken and copies sent to the author and to the publisher. These are read by them and all desired changes are indicated. The printer corrects the pages and a corrected proof is sent to the author. Some authors make only slight changes in their proofs, some cut their work up badly, changing sentences and cutting out and rewriting whole pages. As all the work



THE PRESS ROOM.

done on proof after the first revise is at the expense of the author, some of the bills for authors' corrections are as great as the original cost of type-setting.

When everything is corrected to the author's and publisher's satisfaction, orders are given to "cast" the pages, that is, to make the electrotype plates of them.

Few books at the present day, if a large number are wanted or if more than one edition is to be printed, are printed direct from the type, but from electrotype plates. This saves the wear on the type; besides this, plates are easily handled and stored. The pages to be cast are taken to the "stone." Here they are put into iron frames, or "chases" and surrounded with strips of wood or metal and securely locked in

place by means of iron wedges called "quoins." The "form," as it is called, is then proved and is given a final reading for broken letters and errors that have thus far escaped attention. When all corrections have been made, the pages are ready to be cast.

The process of casting consists of taking an impression of the type in a sheet of prepared bees-wax. This wax mould is then hung in an electric battery, and a thin sheet of copper is deposited upon it, filling the indentations in the wax made by the type. This copper shell is then "backed" with an alloy of lead, the pages sawed apart, trimmed and finished, the backs being planed off to the proper thickness. These plates are proved and are again examined for broken letters and other imperfections, besides any errors that even now may appear. The finisher corrects errors by cutting out of the plate the wrong word or words and substituting a correct piece that has been set just the same size. The new piece is soldered into place in the plate. These plate corrections are rather expensive, but often changes are made by the publishers after the plates have been made. When all changes have been made the plates are ready for the press-room.

Then begins a very delicate and painstaking process, arranging the page plates with reference to the margins of the sheet which is to receive their impression. Usually sixteen or thirty-two pages are printed at once, though if the pages are very small as many as one hundred and twenty-eight may be printed on one side of a sheet. The plates are arranged in the "form" as it is called, so that when the sheet is folded the pages will fall in consecutive order. On most books, especially on those requiring fine work, only one side of the sheet is printed at a time; on other books, the forms are put on what is known as a "perfecting" press, which prints both sides of the sheet at once. On fine work where there are a number of illustrations, the task which requires greatest nicety is underlaying and overlaying. The former is accomplished by pasting on the bottom of the plate carefully cut bits of paper to procure a stronger impression from those portions of the plate which should print up sharp and black. The same result of accentuation is secured by overlaying the smooth polished surface upon which the plate presses at the moment when the impression is made. Of course, the paper which receives the impression is between the overlaying and the plate.

When everything is ready the press is started, and the number of sheets required for the edition is run off. The form is removed and another one made ready. The sheets are usually fed into the press by a man known as a "feeder," but recently a machine has been invented to do this. The way the automatic feeder picks up a sheet of paper in its steel fingers and places it in position is so human as to be almost uncanny. To add to the human element of this machine it is arranged to stop the press automatically if a sheet is torn or is not fed in exactly right.

After being printed the sheets are put into a powerful hydraulic press, where they are subjected to very great pressure, to smooth out the indentations made by the plates while the sheets were being printed. The sheets are now counted and dried, and are ready for the binder.

Novels and other classes of cheap paper-covered books are not given all this attention. The foregoing description refers to fine editions of books. The cheaper books are rushed through a perfecting press at a high rate of speed, and are bound at once. Books with fine illustrations are printed more slowly, one side of the sheet at a time, and are given the greatest attention.

Our sheets have arrived at the bindery. A wonderful machine has recently been invented for binding cheap paper-covered editions. It consists of a massive steel structure, supporting at each end a wheel carrying a wonderful grooved belt or endless chain. Where the latter begins its journey from the lower side of one wheel to that of the other, the central slot of the belt is fed with the folded sheets, constituting a book. The back edges to which the covers are to be attached protrude a fraction of an inch below the bottom of the carrying belt, and first come in contact with knives which do a neat job of trimming. A few inches beyond, the trimmed edges run the gauntlet of three saws, which reduce the backs to a spongy surface, ready to receive a coating of peculiar glue, which is applied by rollers located a little further on, and just beneath the belt and its tandem train of coverless books.

Then strips of cotton the exact width of the book back are firmly stamped upon the soft sticky surface. The thin glue quickly soaks through the strips and makes the latter thoroughly adhesive. At this juncture the paper covers make their appearance, and are pressed in proper position against the cotton backing. This leaves but one more task for this almost human machine to perform before the finished book passes under the second wheel and begins the "home-stretch" along the upper line of the belt. When the cover is pressed upon the back of the book, it is in the form of a flat, outspread sheet. A moment later it passes through the jaws of a clever piece of mechanism, which folds the stiff manilla sheet against the sides of the book. Then the line of finished books advances to the top of the wheel from which the sheets started, dropping out of a chute, ready for market. It will be seen from this description that these sheets are not stitched together, but are simply imbedded in a back of plant glue. This is said to make a stronger binding than is obtained by stitching. One of these machines can easily handle 7000 volumes a day.

For other classes of books the process of binding is of course more elaborate. The sheets are first folded, sometimes by hand, sometimes by a folding machine. When a book is not to have a gilt top the sheets are usually folded by hand, for the machine makes a slight puncture in the sheet near the top of the folded page, which is rather unsightly. When the book is to have a gilt edge, however, a machine can be used, for enough of the top will be scraped away to remove these punctures. After being folded the sheets are stitched together. If sixteen pages have been printed on each side of the sheet, the complete sheet will contain thirty-two pages of the book, in proper order. Each of these folded sheets is a "signature." The various signatures that go to make up a book are now stitched together in their proper order. The sides and edges are next trimmed to the proper size. If the books are to be gilt-edged, they are placed side by side in a lateral press, much like a large vise, with jaws that open very wide. The edges that are to be gilt-edged are scraped very smooth and a thin sizing is then applied, sufficiently adhesive to retain the

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OUR RISKS are really the only risks in the business. We are staking everything on the merit of our Outfit costs us several dollars and if we were to send one each to all who merely desired it for curiosity we would lose enormously. We must have a guarantee on your part. In your letter applying for our outfit give the names of two people in your section as references and agree to pay \$1.00 for it C. O. D. if you find it to be just as represented. Neither will that \$1.00 be lost, for we promise to refund it when you sell five suits. It is simply a temporary pledge of your good faith and intention to go to work for us and buy our goods. It is a safeguard against a heavy loss from triflers. Honest men desiring work will not object to it. Write us at once, before some one else has secured your territory—if you want a high-grade business with Big Profits.

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sheets of gold foil without sticking the leaves of the book together. After the gold leaf has been laid on, the burnishing begins. This is done with long-handled instruments which resemble chisels having a smooth round tip of agate instead of a sharp edge of steel. The handle bears against the shoulder of the workman, and his body sways back and forth as the pressure of the instrument gives high polish to the gold, thoroughly affixing its particles to the edge of each individual leaf.

The books are now ready for their covers, or "cases" as they are technically called. These were formerly made by hand, but a recent invention is a machine where they are glued, have the pieces of straw-board that form the stiff sides put into position, also a strip of cotton the proper width at the back. The cloth is pressed into position, its corners folded over neatly and the completed case discharged at the side of the machine in half the time it takes to tell it, and done much better than it would be possible to do by hand. The covers now have the design of the artist stamped on, from brass dies cut by hand. If the design is to be printed in colors, a separate die is used for each color. If gilt lettering is to be used the design is stamped in adhesive sizing. Gold-leaf is then placed over it, and the surplus gold brushed off. The operator who does this work is in an enclosed booth, so that no particle of superfluous gold can be wasted.

Now the backs of the books are rounded in a machine for that purpose, the covers are put on the book-bodies, and "corded" in huge presses. After being carefully inspected and wrapped they are packed and shipped to their destination and appear on the bookseller's shelves.

Such is the history of a well-made book. In special cases where the regular routine is departed from, processes quite as complex and painstaking as those here described take place. A visit to any large bookmaking establishment will repay the time spent, and the interested seeker after information in these times has before him a broad and interesting field of research.

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The United States has 55 war ships in process of construction. This will make a substantial addition to our navy. It emphasizes the "era of the new." We have not in times past been lavish in our expenditure of money for military or naval strength. But "expansion" must bring new responsibilities to those "who pay the freight" and we must expect a great expenditure of national wealth along new lines.

February brings the holidays that show the admiration of the American people for Washington, the creator of the nation, and Lincoln, its preserver. No February in our history has ever developed more momentous issues than those of to-day. The nation of our two greatest men to-day belts the globe and brings with its territorial increase duties as grave as those that confronted the two greatest men in our history. They knew moments of discouragement but they persevered. We may face dark days but we shall know how to bear any burdens that may be laid upon us. The hour always brings the man.

The portrait show held in New York for the benefit of a hospital brought the work of the most eminent portrait painters all over the world into one collection. The eminent artists of France, England and America were well represented. The portraits of women proved one thing. The beauty and grace of the old time portraits is rivaled by the beauty of these modern women. There is no charm of shy witchery, no naive expression of a portrait of our grandmother's day that does not find its match in these modern maidens. No dashing beauty of the court of Louis or of Bonny Prince Charlie's time but can find a worthy rival in the "grande dames" of the portrait show.

One of the interesting developments of the library systems in great cities is seen in the plans of the New York City Circulating Library. A number of books suitable for children are packed in a neat case and sent to the home of any child who will distribute them among her playfellows and collect them for safe return at the end of the time allowed. As each case is sent a woman goes to the home of the receiver of the books and endeavors to interest the children in the books. This is really an application of the state system of traveling libraries with the addition of the library employee who gives an idea of what the books are about. Many educators boldly proclaim that it were better that a child did not know how to read than that he be given this key to knowledge and then turned loose in the midst of pernicious and bad books with no hand to direct or guide his taste. To place good books within his reach and then to furnish a guide to create and stimulate the taste for good reading is certainly a noble work.

The American possesses a certain light airy surface manner that leads him to jest when he is most in earnest. One of the recent new figures introduced in the German is the Battle of Manila Bay or the Admiral Dewey. Each side merrily bombards the other with confetti balls. These society bombs burst in air and showers of gayly colored streamers fly in every direction. It is quite sure that none of those participating in this frolic fail to understand the tragic importance of the historical significance of that battle. At the same time it is in rather questionable taste to take the amusement of the moment under the name of such an event as the Battle of Manila. There was

loss of life in the battle and not even the gay surge of dance music or the colors of a favor for the German can totally shut out the graves that lie by Manila Bay. We are too close to the sound of actual war to make a jest of its paraphernalia. There is national courage. It jars upon a fine sense of eternal fitness when the event that opened to this nation a great eastern empire is made the name for a careless revel. These very society butterflies have shown that they had patriotism and self sacrifice in the interests of their country. Let them also show that they can appreciate the dignity of achievement.

The Board of Health of New York City has added one more horror to the generous list of attainments in that line already in the scope of the dreaded "Grip." Sufferers have always been able to gather what comfort there might be in the sympathy of friends who listened to and condoled with the victims. Now the Board says that "grip" is contagious. To all its other horrors must be added that of suffering alone or of bearing the well-known stigma of the one who "began it" from the victims of contiguous sympathy. Now let some scientist tell us how to destroy the "bacillus." It is really a great social triumph for this unrecognized member to be admitted by scientific approval to the royal family of discomfort and death—the germs. In these later days, not to be familiar with germs and microbes is to write yourself an emphatic back number. The bacillus of grip has never been recognized before but it has gone its way and made even the aristocracy of the germ family look to their laurels. At last the disposed bacillus has come into its own. It has been classified, and suffering humanity may indulge in the faint hope that now that it has entered the "four hundred" of the germ family it may be content with a scientific recognition of its existence and less direct proof of its activity among the laity. "Watch out" for the grip bacillus and give it the cut direct.

England has shown a most gratifying interest in her sometimes rebellious child. Some confirmed doubters have tried to see "a revenue only" side to this long supposed affection. We all know family quarrels are the most bother in the world but we also know that the same sensitiveness to wrong will make the most quarrelsome family unite against any outsider. It seems so with the great Anglo-Saxon family. We are of kindred blood. The proposal to place a statue of George Washington in Westminster Abbey is but another expression of a sentiment that has been growing between the English speaking races on the other side of the water. We can hope that it may be found possible to place this statue. No greater recognition could be given of a fact that Sir Edward Thornton once stated when he said, "Englishmen know that it was their battle as well as your own that was fought in the Revolution." It is the battle that the English speaking race has been fighting since its birth—the battle against arbitrary, tyrannical rule whether it be of a nation over its colonies, of a king over his subjects, or of a class of men over their more unfortunate fellows. The broader minded portion of the race have fought this battle against their own people when they failed to see the right. They have fought it against "lesser breeds without the law" wherever the great question of eternal right and wrong demanded settlement. A statue of George Washington in the great historic burial ground of those who have made England great would proclaim to all the world that a battle for a principle that was right was not a battle of one nation against another, but of those who saw the right, whether in England or America, against those who hold to a wrong.

"Man is the only animal that laughs," is a trite saying. We do hear of "crocodile tears" and of "grinning like a Cheshire cat," and sometimes of a "laughing hyena," but we fall back on the old saying as an indisputable proof of man's superiority. Of course "man" is used in the general sense and the feminine portion has decided that the one peculiarity that raises us above the brute should be cultivated to æsthetic perfection. So my lady if she be of the latest mode, takes lessons in laughing. No loud, boisterous "haw haw" is to be tolerated. It is not to laugh but to laugh well. The classes in laughing are given the pitch from a pitch pipe. Then they laugh up and down the scale. They laugh in the key suitable to a drawing-room, and they laugh pianissimo and crescendo, forte and diminuendo. In fact they make a careful, conscientious effort to substantiate the claims of the authors who speak of "sliverry peals of mirth" and "low, musical laughter."

Seriously speaking, there is no surer evidence of culture or of lack of culture than the laugh. The voice may be trained so that it rings fairly true but the tone of the laugh fixes the social status at once. It gives an index of character that can be trusted. The laugh of the selfish, narrow, self-centered individual indicates his character. It is impossible not to trust a person who laughs out in a free, merry burst of good feeling. The shy person, the secretive, suspicious person rarely laughs aloud. No slip of tongue, eye, or lip betrays the inherent coarseness of some natures, but let the person

laugh aloud and they stand revealed. The giggle is usually a sign of extreme self-consciousness and of a nervous temperament, whose whole universe is obscured to her own personality. Cultivation will change or destroy the index to individuality furnished by laughter. A merry laugh is a charm worth cultivating and laughing to music till laughter is music should be encouraged.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

PIANO OR ORGAN.		VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.		
105	American Liberty March	Cook	27	Annie's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor, Winter
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook	27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni
101	Auld Lang Syne, Variations	Durkee	140	Beacon Light of Hope
101	Aurora, Op. 89, 1	Durkee	132	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands
37	Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive	Anderson	134	Beautiful Moonlight, Duet
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Anderson	132	Ben Bolt, of 'Tribly' fame
65	Bells of Corneville, Potpourri	Elson	12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow
35	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh	34	By Normandie's Blue Hills
65	Bluebird and the Polka	Morrison	192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?
103	Boston Commander's March	Cady	132	Christmas Carol
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner	190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls
67	Bryan and Sewall March	Notes	168	Corn's Breach of Promise. Cake walk
133	Cadenances and Scales in All Keys	Cerny	92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh	136	Crack Pot March
141	Clayton (Clayton's) March—Two Step	Marshall	19	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old
47	Cleveland's March	Wheeler	128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.
61	Coming from the Races Galop	Pink	50	Easter Eve. Sacred
111	Constancy, Romance	Cootie, Jr.	19	E Dunno Where We Are. Comic
33	Corn Flower Waltzes	Ashton	72	Elalaine. Waltz song
33	Crack Pot March	Durkee	13	Elmer's Lullaby. Stumble Song
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Marcel	180	Far Away
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphant March	Notes	182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance
11	Echoing Trumpets March	Durkee	126	Far from the Heartstone
121	Electric Light Galop	Robinson	162	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Quinn	156	Flirting in the Starlight
101	Ethiopia	Stockard	144	Flirting in the Starlight
155	Evergreen Waltz	Leysach	6	Flossie. Waltz Song
77	Fifth Nocturne	Lassade	138	For a Dream's Sake
69	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Spindler	36	For the Colors. Patriotic
97	Fresh Life	Watson	66	For You We are Praying at Home
77	Frolic of the Frogs	Toy	108	From out Here Love is Going
99	Full of Ginger. March Galop	Toy	108	God Bless My Kind Old Mother
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Musud	90	Gypsy Countess. Duet
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Schultz	184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past
63	Greeting of Spring, Op. 21	Richards	74	In Sweet September
139	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Black	168	In the Starlight. Duet
103	Hobon of the Meadows	Rosas	24	Juanita. Waltz
185	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Muller	98	Kathleen Mavourneen
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Gottschalk	21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Kahn	132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Laubach	130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine
103	Leafy Branches	Musud	143	Listen to the Mocking Bird
103	Lee's (Gen'l.) "On to Cuba" Galop	Badarzewski	142	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet
141	London March—Two Step	Mausfeld	154	Little Voices at the Door
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Turner	98	Lost Chord, The
45	March Winds Galop	Levitt	106	Little Nell
63	McKinley and Hobart March	Wieg	106	Love Ever Faithful
153	Memorial Day March	Smith	48	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer
131	Monastery Belle. Nocturne	Zahra	25	Lurline. Do you think of me now?
97	Morning Dew, Op. 18	Zuchrer	112	Mama's Sleeping in de Churchyard
61	Morning Star Waltz	Cook	30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song
137	My Love Polka	Blake	102	Mother's Welcome (Transcription Army)
125	My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	Kullak	172	Mother's Welcome at the Door
125	National Anthem of Eight Great Nations	Blake	54	Musical Dialogue. Duet
75	National Songs of America	Blake	114	My First Wife's Departed (Bluebird)
135	Nightingale's Trill, Op. 81	Durkee	76	My Home by the Old Mill
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Spencer	110	My Little Love Song
71	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Rosas	110	My Old Cuckoo Home
83	Orville and Aggie's Waltz	Durkee	94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)
101	Over the Waves Waltz	Blake	60	Old Glory. National
79	Please Do Waltz	Blake	102	Old Sexton. The
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Musud	104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River
143	Richmond March—two-step	Schubert	60	On the Banks of the Beautiful River
93	River of the South	Lange	104	Outcast, An. Character Song
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Cohen	147	Parted from our Dear Ones
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	Musud	100	Picture of My Mother, The
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Gaimant	140	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic
75	Scherzetto, Op. 48	Leist	66	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance
109	Schubert's Dream. Transcription	Martin	136	Raggy Wags
109	Silvery Waves. Variations	Paderevski	23	Rocked In the Cradle of the Deep
169	Smith's (General) March	Dose	142	Rosemonde

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2	Annle's Love. Duet for Soprano, Tenor	Winter
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Macagnan
40	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
43	Beautiful Kiss	Jennie. The
44	Beautiful Moonlight	Duet
102	Ben Bolt, of 'Tribby' fame	Keefe
12	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carver
34	By Normandie's Blue Hills	Trotter
102	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
102	Chainless	Turner
123	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
100	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells. The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
102	Fading Night	Honby
102	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
126	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Garnold
19	'E Dunno Where 'K Are. Comic	Epiflet
72	Elaine. Waltz song	Deits
2	Edna's Lullaby. Stumber Song	Mayer
180	Far Away	Hites
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Heartstone	Measer
182	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Althaus
156	Flirting in the Starlight	Q. Fox
9	Flossie. Waltz Song	Deleano
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cohen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
9	For our Heroes the Loved are Going	Hoover
72	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
100	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
78	In the Sweet September	Temple
102	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
9	Juanita. Ballad	Mary
98	Kathleen 'Maourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horselaugh over the Door	Skelly
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
102	Little Bird. Waltz Song	Woods
148	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
9	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
98	Lost Chord. The	Sullivan
108	Lottie Bell	Gibbert
102	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalano
98	Lovey Little Nellie Dwyer	Coxey
28	Lurline. Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
12	Maasa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefe
30	Mission of a Rose. The. Song	Cowan
57	My Soldier's Cry (Salvatory Army)	Adams
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
54	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
114	My First Wife's Departed (Bluebird)	Openbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
10	My Little Love Friend	Dunks
102	My Little Kentucky Horse	Turner
94	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton. The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
98	On the Beach. Comic and beautiful ballad	Hobmann
100	Outcast. An. Character Song	Fitz
142	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother. The	Skelly
68	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
98	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weider
23	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Granger
142	Rosemound	Knight
9	See Those Living Pictures	Chamaine
88	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Guth
24	Shine the Stars of Evening	Adviance
20	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Dunmore
10	Sweetest Song. The	Hites
32	Sweet Long Ago. The	Denza
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Estabrooke
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Nutting
118	The King of Hearts	Danks
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Skelly
100	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray. The. Old English Song	
62	Why Mother's Love for You	Koppit
58	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Hoover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Travne
186	Whistling Wife. The. Comic	Rendell

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MAMMA'S IN HEAVEN.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY E. NINIAN.

Moderato.

1. Two lit - tle chil - dren, a boy and a girl,
2. "Pa - pa was lost out at sea, long a - go, we
3. "May be to - night they've no room there," she said,

sat by an old church door. The girl's lit - tle feet were as brown as the curl That fell on the
wait - ed all night on the shore. For he was a life sav - ing cap - tain, you know, But nev - er came
"two lit - tle ones to keep";. Then plac - ing her arm un - der lit - tle Jim's head, She kissed him, and

dress that she wore. The boy's coat was fa - ded, and hat - less his head; A tear shone in each lit - tle
back an - y more. Then mam - ma got sick, an - gels took her a - way, She said, to a home warm and
both fell a - sleep. The sex - ton came ear - ly to ring the church bell, He found them be - neath the snow

rit. *a tempo.* *rit.* *rall.*

eye. "Why don't you run home to your mam - ma," I said; And this was the maid - en's re - ply.
bright. They'll come for my dar - ling's," she told us, "some day." Per - haps they are com - ing to - night.
white. The an - gels made room for the or - phans to dwell In Heav - en with mam - ma, that night.

REFRAIN. *rit.* *a tempo* *rall.*

"Mamma's in heav-en, they took her a - way, Left Jim and I a - lone. We come here to sleep, at the close of the day, For we have no mamma or home. We

a tempo. *rit.* *p rit.* *mf* *rall.*

can't earn our bread, we're too lit - tle," she said. "Jim's five years, and I'm on - ly seven. There's no one to love us since pa - pa is dead, And our darling mamma's in Heaven."

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A Few Words on the Growing Popularity of Good Music, Cheap.

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To both old and new friends we call attention to the offer on another page and especially among the many new pieces to No. 193, Poet and Peasant Overture, by Von Suppe. The original complete edition of this celebrated overture, consisting of ten full pages from entirely new plates, made especially for this number, usually sold in high-priced music stores for 75c.; No. 194, She Sleeps Among the Daisies, words by C. H. Webb, music by Lon Dinsmore; No. 195, Killarney, the celebrated Irish ballad by W. M. Balfe.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Great trade centers must wait until these ideas are brought to her through the medium of some paper—either described in an article, or in an advertisement.

One of the articles to which we wish to call attention this month, and which is comparatively new, is certainly the most useful that has come to our notice in many months. It is a receptacle for broken needles—such dangerous things to have around, particularly where there are children or four-footed pets.

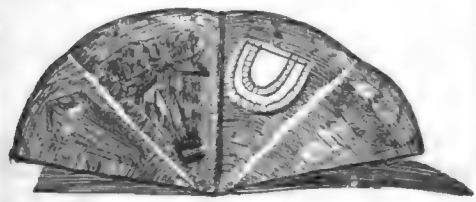
This little friend in need is as modest and simple as one could desire—being only a small bottle such as homeopathic physicians use for their little pellets; over the top of the bottle is tied a piece of silk, no cork being used, and around the neck of the bottle is tied a piece of narrow ribbon to cover the edges of the silk and the thread with which it is tied. Baby ribbon is used for this, and ends of three or four inches are left dangling; these ends are used for tying the bottle to the handle of the work basket, and then it is always at hand, and the broken needle can be slipped through the silk top and down into the bottle, where it may rest in peace, (also in pieces) until the bottle is full; then the top can be removed, the little sharp points be consigned to the stove, the only safe place for them, a new top be put on and the bottle again tied to the old stand, where it will continue to do a thriving business.

Store this idea up, if it happens to be new to you, and next December when Gladys wonders what she will give to her Aunts, bring it out and let her make half a dozen, and, my word for it, the Aunts will be more than delighted with her forethought.

We illustrate herewith a little needle book, which also holds scissors and thread; it is not a new idea, but is so useful that it will stand a description. It is something that can be utilized as a gift to a man, and is also a handy little traveling companion for a woman, as it can always be kept well stocked, and when going away for a day or two can be slipped into a hand bag, taking up little room, and yet will be found very convenient in the event of a glove or boot button becoming loosened.

If possible, get a skin of bronzed leather; from one skin half a dozen of these little books may be made. The book is a half circle, measuring ten inches across the straight side and, of course, five inches at the widest point of the circle. Bind all around with brown galloon, stitched on by machine. Then cut a lining of satin or silk one-fourth inch larger all around than the leather; turn in the edges and hem this lining onto the wrong side of book.

Next cut a piece of leather the shape of that on our diagram marked "scissors pocket"—this to be three inches long and one and one-half wide at the widest point. Bind the edges with galloon. Cut also a strip of the leather for the needle band, two and one-half inches long by one-half inch wide, which also bind. Attach the latter near one end of the book, onto the lining, by fastening firmly at both ends; then fasten it also in the middle, and there will be room to slip two papers of needles under the band. On the other end of the book fasten the scissors pocket.



FINISHED NEEDLEBOOK.

Next to the scissors pocket comes a pocket for thread, which is made of the same material as the lining of the book, and the shape may be seen in our diagram. This should measure three inches in depth by three in width at the top, tapering off a little at the bottom. Draw the bottom closely together, hem and shirr the top, and then attach to lining.

For the fourth and last compartment, make two leaves of white flannel, buttoned-holed around the edges—the larger leaf to measure two and one-half inches across the top, and the smaller one inch less—the leaves being rounded at the bottom edges, in good proportion. Attach them in their place, one above the other, and then fold the book by bringing the two outer edges to the center, and then folding these edges together. At the point where the edges come together after folding, attach two pieces of narrow ribbon, to match in color the lining, with which to tie the book together, and put a small bow of the same on

the pocket, inside.

Red morocco may also be bought in the skin, and is very pretty when made into these books, particularly when lined with cream or white satin.

Someone has sent us word that pads for stairs, to be used under the carpet, may easily be made at home; of course we all know what a saving they are to the carpet. Take half-worn blankets, which have been shrunken in repeated washings so that they are no longer useful for the beds; sprinkle with pepper and make into flat pads to fit the stairs, covering with thin calico. These pads should be one inch shorter than the width of the carpet, and five inches wide, and placed under the carpet directly over the edge of the stair, where the wear comes. Of course you know what the pepper is for.

This same person tells us to air our bookcases! this is a good suggestion, for books in a continually closed case become musty and ill-

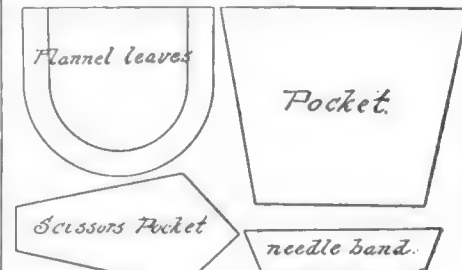


DIAGRAM.

smelling. Therefore, each week when the sweeping has been done, open wide the doors of the bookcase and let in the fresh air.

PEPSIN-SALTED PEANUTS.

Dyspepsia, Insomnia and Other Ills Cured by the Common American Peanut.

If the day ever dawns when science shall have robbed Nature of her last secret the world's people of that era will marvel at the host of simple things that Nature possessed for the welfare of mankind. Diligent investigation has lately discovered that the common American peanut contains qualities which when scientifically prepared and made operative with salt and pepsin in proper proportions acts with amazing promptitude on the gastric juices, relieving almost immediately dyspeptic disturbances, and, in time, curing dyspepsia in its worst forms.

To America is due the honor of having first produced the peanut (*arachis hypogaea*). Its true name is "goober," and Virginia is noted for exceptionally large crops of the nut. Since something of its real value has become known other warm countries succeeded in growing it. The plant is leguminous and of many branches, resembling somewhat the clover. It is planted and cared for much like peas or beans and is sometimes called earth or ground nut on account of its vines running along on the ground. Two years ago any one recommending peanuts for dyspepsia would have been geared at, and rightly, too, for it is of more recent date that the medicinal qualities of the nut were discovered. Until this discovery these qualities were dominated by an oil in which the peanut is rich. This oil is non-drying and valuable as a lubricant. It is also used extensively as an adulterant for olive oil.

Frequent experiments discovered that the peanut was also rich in nutriment, and that this food when peptonized acted like magic in dispelling heartburn, curing insomnia, and putting the digestive apparatus in working order. All well-informed medical men know that science has succeeded in isolating so pure a pepsin that it will digest 25,000 times its own weight in albumen. Pepsin is one of the albuminoids or nitrogenous substances, and it has the power of converting proteids into peptones. When the process of digestion does not furnish sufficient pepsin to accomplish complete assimilation of the food dyspepsia begins to entrench itself in the system. Then have a care, for, if its inroads are not blocked and the disease followed, years of intense suffering are sure to follow.

Everybody likes peanuts. Ever since the first "Young America" laughed at the antics of the circus clown peanuts have been popular. Children love to eat them on the sly "when the teacher isn't looking," while older persons have been known to crack them quietly in their pockets and sneak the palatable kernels into their mouths at the theater. Even the confirmed dyspeptic loves them, but is afraid. Who, it may be asked, ever expected to hear of peanuts being used as a remedy for dyspepsia, for Bright's Disease, for Diabetes, for Insomnia and for corpulency?

Germany claims the credit of having discovered the possibilities of the peanut, and an eminent chemist in our employ has demonstrated that "pepsin-salted" peanuts lose none of the peanut flavor in the preparation. Our process of preparing them is such that the oil is neutralized while the flavor and the medicinal properties of the nut are retained. This makes a food-medicine that is certain to be the delight of everybody.

In connection with medicinal qualities of pepsin-salted peanuts it might be interesting as well as instructive to know that peanuts outrank, by a large percentage, such nutritive foods as cheese, peas, beef, rice, potatoes, milk, rye flour, and veal. Already the Germans are making flour and butter from the peanut, and the success of the venture has been such that peanut planters everywhere are preparing to double their usual crops.

We are the first in the United States to prepare pepsin-salted peanuts for the market, and we hope to merit success solely from the quality of the goods which we shall dispose of through our agents at 10c. per package.

Experiments have proved that our pepsin-salted peanuts will cure heartburn and relieve all the other pangs of chronic dyspepsia.

Sufferers from the effects of Bright's Disease and other kidney troubles have noted marked progress after treatment.

Corpulency disappears because the pepsin-salted peanuts digest and makes other food digest.

Half a handful eaten one hour before retiring will induce sleep and a continuation of pepsin-salted peanuts rightly will cure insomnia.

Notice COMFORT's special offer in advertisement on another page of "Two thousand packages shelled peanuts sent free," write at once for a sample package as per their offer.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Between our cabinet and other makes! These cuts speak plainer than words. Our New 1900 style Quaker Folding Vapor Bath Cabinet has a Door, has a self-supporting steel frame, galvanized, covering of antiseptic, hygienic cloth, rubber lined. Cabinet does not rest on the shoulders, nor pull over your head. No need of work to operate, simply open door, step in, rubber coat off, step out. Only perfect Cabinet made. Padded it is 3 in. thick, 15 in. wide, 16 in. high, weighs only 5 lbs. Patented. \$28.000 sold. Recommended by Best Physicians for bathing purposes. It opens the pores, sweats out the poisons, makes you clean, strong, vigorous and healthy. Cures bad cold with one bath. Cures rheumatism, lacerations, lacerations, lacerations, all blood skin, nerve and kidney diseases. Immediate Relief Guaranteed in Worst Cases. Cabinet, Frame, Stove, Formulas and Directions sent anywhere upon receipt of \$5.00. Free Rinsing attachment \$1.00 extra. Order today. You won't be disappointed. It's guaranteed as represented, or money refunded. We are responsible. Capital \$100,000.00. Largest manufacturers of Bath Cabinets in the world. Write us any way.

Our Valuable Descriptive FREE! Book, Testimonials, Etc.

We recommend above firm as thoroughly reliable.—FARMER.

Address, F. B. WORLD MANUFACTURING CO., Cincinnati, O.

AGENTS WANTED, MEN AND WOMEN.

\$100.00 a Month and Expenses.

Best Hickory WAGON, NECK, YOKES, SILL, BLETTERS AND EVERERS, FULL.

Each, \$25; per dozen, \$2.00.

Each, 25c; per dozen, \$2.15.

Each, 18c; per dozen, \$2.16.

Each, 40c; per dozen, \$4.85.

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our behalf. Start out now and see what you guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers for the same we will also send you a nice **14K GOLD WATCH**.

Women in Public Service.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PRESIDENT McKinley and the men who hold portfolios under him have appointed an unusual number of women to government places, and clerks of the gentler sex get much more consideration than they received from the last Administration, which openly exhibited a prejudice against them.

For thirty-seven years women have been employed in the public service at Washington, where there are now somewhat over 3000 of them in the executive departments. They have proved themselves a success, having made a record for reliability superior to that of the men, and it is for this quality that they have earned most praise. During the period mentioned there have been many defalcations by government clerks, but only one of these was attributable to a woman. Being occupied in the redemption division of the Treasury, she invented a most ingenious plan for making nine notes out of eight, incidentally to the work of putting together fragments of damaged money.

Up to the period of the Civil War no women were employed in the departments at Washington. The conflict with the South occasioned demand for great quantities of paper currency, and twenty men were engaged to do the work of cutting apart and trimming the notes. Gen. Spinner, at that time Treasurer of the United States, conceived the notion that women could do this sort of thing much faster. He had been in the banking business, and his daughter had clipped his notes for him with notable deftness. Accordingly, a single female clerk was introduced into the office experimentally, and she did the work of three men. That settled it, and presently the entire corps of clippers and trimmers was composed of women.

Next, the notion was conceived that women could do the work of counting the money with greater quickness, and an experiment showed that this was true. Accordingly, the men in the redemption division were replaced by women, and some of those originally employed are still occupied in the same task at the Treasury. The women are surprisingly reliable and accurate, almost never making a mistake. It would be impossible to put men in their places without great disadvantage to the work and a large increase of expense. One point made by Gen. Spinner in his argument in behalf of employing women was that they could be had for half the price of men; but since the adoption of civil service regulations they have received the same salaries as the male clerks of equal rank, and this rule has governed in all the departments. It is a fact that many women of superior abilities are glad to accept positions which could not be filled so satisfactorily at the same pay by men, for the reason that clever men can earn more money outside of the public service.

In the division of loans and currency of the Treasury Department all of the distinctive fiber paper used for money and for bonds is counted and examined, and the utmost care has to be taken to see that there are no flaws in it. This work is done by women, and the faithfulness with which it is performed is proved by the quantity of rejected sheets annually returned to the manufacturers. To the eye of any ordinary person these rejected sheets would seem to be of first-rate quality and finish. Even greater expertness is exhibited by the counters of mutilated money. All of these are women, because it has been found that they are more clever than men at such work. They must be absolutely accurate, accounting for every dollar, and much of the spoiled cash that comes into the Treasury for redemption is in such a condition as to require most delicate handling, having been chewed by goats, swallowed by puppies, eaten by babies, passed through the laundry, or partly burned by the fire. One of the ladies in the redemption division of the Treasury is the greatest living expert in identifying and "restoring" burned money, and another is more skillful at detecting counterfeit than any man in the government employ. She says that it is intuition with her.

The clerks at the Post Office Department who do "blind reading," which consists in deciphering illegible addresses, are women. They are far superior to men at such work, possibly for the reason that feminine intuition helps them. One of them is considered the foremost expert in her line in the world, and some of her decipherings are well-nigh miraculous.

Women of late have been making their way into the scientific branches of the government service. Two women ethnologists of very superior attainments and of recognized reputation are employed by the Bureau of Ethnology. The Smithsonian Institution has a woman expert in lobsters and crabs. In the National Museum is a woman who is an authority on mammals, and the most skillful entomological artist living is a woman employee of the bureau of entomology. Her reputation for accuracy in the drawing of bugs is unequalled. The Chief Librarian of the Bureau of Public Documents is a woman. Recently the Bureau of American Republics required a couple of translators in French and Spanish, and two mere girls won the prizes in competitive examinations. They are the highest-paid women in the government service, each of them receiving \$2400 a year. A female expert in grasses was appointed a few months ago in the Department of Agriculture.

The Post Office Department employs a great army of women. Among these are 7670 female postmasters, and there are about 80,000 women to whom the oath of office has been administered to qualify them to assist in conducting the business of post offices. Women are employed in all branches of the postal service, except as letter-carriers, railway mail clerks, and inspectors. The same salaries are paid to them as to men for the same kind of work, running from \$240 to \$1900 per annum. Postmistresses sometimes receive much more than \$1800. There is only one government office in Washington where no women are employed—the Army Medical Museum. The Indian Bureau furnishes good opportunities for women who are employed as cooks, laundresses, and

seamstresses at Indian schools and agencies, getting from \$400 to \$500 per annum. They do no menial work, being required merely to teach the little Indians how to cook, sew, etc. Matrons at such schools and agencies receive \$500 to \$800. These are the only government offices accessible through marriage, the wife of a superintendent of a school or agency being always the preferred candidate for the place of matron.

The chiefs of the departments and bureaus are at full liberty to call upon the Civil Service Commission for male clerks if they prefer them, and the mere fact that so many women are appointed is proof that they are reliable and efficient. There are only two or three women in the Department of State, because that Department has always had a prejudice against them. A notion is entertained to the effect that they cannot be trusted with public secrets.

Naturally there are some officials who entertain views adverse to women clerks. They assert that women expect special favors and are less manageable than men; that they are disposed to appeal to the sympathy of their superiors in office, in order to obtain privileges and immunities; that they are apt to rely upon their fascinations rather than upon hard work; that they object to smoking; that the young ones are often vain and desirous of pleasing the young men with whom they are associated; that they cannot be used in emergencies; that they do not have the ambition to excel in their work that the average man has; and, finally, that while working for Uncle Sam, they are looking out all the time for the right man to come along and when they find him they quickly shake off the government harness and don the matrimonial.

That some of the allegations have a basis in fact, as applying to special cases, cannot be doubted, but they are certainly not just as referring to the generality of the women employees of the departments. Most of the officials in charge of government bureaus frankly acknowledge that, for certain classes of work particularly, women are far superior to men and more reliable. They are accurate and painstaking. As typewriters and stenographers they are particularly efficient. They pass the civil service examinations much higher than the men, their average of superiority being eight or ten per cent. One reason for this is that girls stay longer at school than boys do, as a rule, and are more mature in respect to book-learning when they come out. Their habits are good, and their work is not apt to be interfered with by any sort of indulgence. In offices devoted to accounting and filing, where memory and system go very far, they so admirable. As already hinted, they furnish more ability for the money. It is declared by Commissioner of Pensions Evans that some of the women in his employ are as competent as any men to pass on legal questions of the kind that come under the attention of his bureau.

In the old days of the spoils system a good many females of dubious character were employed in the departments, and, thanks to their "influence" were more sure of their places than the good women and received greater consideration. For them promotion was rapid, hours what they desired, and work light or none at all. Some of them never came to the office, but merely signed the pay-roll and drew their salaries. The Civil Service Law has changed all this, however, and at present the average of respectability among women government clerks is very high.

Bureau officials, in calling on the Civil Service Commission for clerks, are at liberty to fix the requirement as to sex, and this is why six men are appointed for every woman. To show how far prejudice goes in this matter, the case may be mentioned of Miss Staknecker, who was appointed recently as a translator in the Department of State. She had previously applied for a place in the War Department, and had been rejected, after beating all her male rivals in a special competitive examination "out of sight." The requirements were extraordinarily exact, but, after answering every question correctly, the young lady was shut out because she could not with propriety climb ladders for books.

Our government is said to be the only business concern in existence that places women on the same plane with men in the matter of pay for work. Certainly Uncle Sam affords a commendable example in this regard; nevertheless it gives rise to no little grumbling outside of the ranks of the Federal civil service. In the big cities of this country there are plenty of educated and refined young women who are doing typewriting or other clerical labor for \$7 or \$8 weekly, tolling from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. to earn that modest stipend. Not unnaturally, they consider it an injustice that persons of their own sex, merely through the luck of getting places under the government, should be receiving from \$1000 to \$1800 per annum—with one month of vacation each year and another month of sick leave—for doing the same sort of work, with much shorter hours. The everyday employee in commercial life cannot be persuaded to look upon this situation with complacency. When the last report on this subject was made by the Civil Service Commission, seven women employed by Uncle Sam in Washington were drawing \$1800 a year, forty-six were getting \$1600, ten were receiving \$1500, two hundred and fifteen were absorbing \$1400, and six hundred were pocketing checks amounting to from \$1200 to \$1300 annually.

BICYCLES AS BAGGAGE.

There has been a test case in the English courts on a question which is agitating cyclists all around the world, more or less. It was brought in the Queen's Bench division against the Great Northern Railway Company "on behalf of one Britten," seeking "to recover sixpence paid for the conveyance of a bicycle from King's Cross to East Finchley." And after hearing and argument the court decided that the plaintiff could not recover for the reason that "a bicycle cannot be ordinary luggage within the definition."

The special interest attaching to this case is found in the fact that the attorney for the plaintiff made his argument on the very lines on which similar claims are based in this country. He claimed that a bicycle came clearly within the definition of "personal luggage" for the reason that it was carried by the traveller for his own personal convenience and use in connection with his journey, and was an article such as was ordinarily carried for that purpose. But his Lordship, in rendering his decision, brushed away all such considerations by declaring that "the idea of luggage" must control; and as luggage implies something that is "packed," not taken "loose, like a bicycle," the wheelman lost his case.—*Boston Post.*

FITS

Permanently Cured.

SERENE MIND, HEALTHY BODY AND A JOYOUS FUTURE ASSURED.



Potsdam, N. Y., Oct. 23, 1898.
W. H. MAY, M. D., New York City.
Dear Sir:—I am permanently cured of "Fits." I recommend your treatment to all who suffer from this terrible malady.
Faithfully, MRS. L. A. CLEVELAND.

Rock House, Ohio, Oct. 30, 1898.
Dr. W. H. MAY, New York City.
My dear Doctor:—Let me state that your remedy, "Epileptide," has worked miracles for my little girl. Before she began your treatment, she was so bad with St. Vitus' Dance that she could not feed herself, nor could she walk. After using your remedy, she was able to feed herself and walked without assistance. Three months ago I stopped giving "Epileptide," and when I tell you that my little girl is now going to school, and is in perfect health, you cannot fail to believe that your wonderful medicine has effected a permanent cure. You have saved my child's life, and I ask that you publish this fact to the whole world.
Very gratefully yours,
MRS. MARY M. SWEET.

Seville, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1898.
W. H. MAY, M. D., New York City.
Dear Doctor:—My daughter suffered for some time with "Nervousness" and "Spells." Your medicine, "Epileptide," acted like magic, and she has been completely relieved of all her symptoms. I want to express to you my gratitude for restoring my daughter to health.
Very respectfully,
MRS. JOHN W. LEE.

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Spasms or Spells, Fits, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus' Dance, etc., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted by New Discovery, Epileptide, will PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for FREE Bottle and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE. When writing, please say you read this in COMFORT and give name, AGE, and full address. All Correspondence Professionally Confidential.

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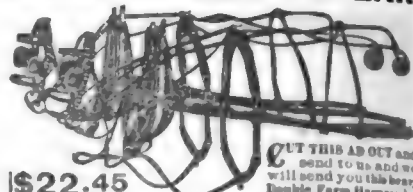
\$1.18 FARM BELL.
SEND US \$1.18 and we will send you this 50 POUND BELL and if you do not find it the greatest value you ever saw, and equal to bells that retail as high as \$5.00, we will return your \$1.18. BELL is 17 inches in diameter, it is made of fine Osborn metal, full bronzed, loud, clear ring, fine tone, comes complete with all mountings and hangings to go on post. Write for Free Catalogue of Farm, Church, School and Factory Bells. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.

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\$22.45
CUT THIS AD OUT and send to us, and we will send you this heavy Double Farm Harness by freight C.O.D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if you find it equal to harness elsewhere, pay \$22.45 for PERFECT SATISFACTION, and the greatest value you ever saw, pay Our Special Offer Price \$22.45 the freight agent and freight charges, less the \$1.00 sent with order. The harness boxed weigh-60 pounds and the freight will average for 200 miles 30c; 500 miles, 45c; 1000 miles, 75c. **OUR \$22.45 HARNESS** is very strong throughout, made from heaviest Dundee oak tanned leather, one of the best double team farm harnesses on the market. TRAPS, 1 1/2 inch, very heavy double and stitched, champion trace buckles. PADS, extra heavy folded with 1/2 inch layer and fancy housings, heavy hook and terret. BRIDLES, heavy 3/4 inch heavy. Cased harness leather blinkers, round side cheeks and winker braces. HAMESS, iron over top, combination loops. MARTINGALES, heavy 1 1/2 inch with 3/4 inch collar straps. BREAST STRAPS, extra heavy 1 1/2 inch with snaps and breast strap slides. BELLY BANDS, extra heavy folded. BACK STRAPS, each with crupper to buckle. HIP STRAPS, 1 inch, sewed in carrier. TRIMMINGS, highest grade XC plate. (Price is without collar.) If you need a heavy double team harness don't fail to order this. We will save you \$10 to \$25. **TEAM HARNESS AT \$12 and up write for our Free Harness and Hazy Catalogue.** Address, **Sears, Roebuck & Co. (Inc.) Chicago**

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10c.
This is a fine SOLID GOLD plated initial ring, enameled in black around the initial and is fully worth \$1.00. We shall give away 5,000 of these to divert our business. Send 10 cents, a pay postage and packing. Send size. **CURTIN JEWELRY CO., Attleboro, Mass.**

\$3.75 A \$25.00 WATCH
In appearance the most beautiful watch ever manufactured. Double hunting case, stem wind and stem set, superbly engraved. Magnificent high grade ruby jeweled movement absolutely guaranteed for **SEVEN YEARS**. Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination. Only one watch per customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want Gent's or Lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 30 days only. **E. E. CHALMERS & CO., 315-325 Dearborn St., Chicago.** Please mention COMFORT when you write.

We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address, **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

Our New Colonies and Interests.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

until it can be seen what it is best to do for the future of this beautiful island.

All lovers of good government will be pleased



HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

to know that General Wood is to continue as military governor of Santiago. No person has done more to reconcile both the Spanish and Cuban people in that province to the conquest by the Americans; as few weeks as it is since the memorable fight around Santiago, and with all the sores of war still unhealed, General Wood has brought about a feeling, if not of entire friendship, one where there is no enmity or bad feeling; and his great success in municipal improvements, cleaning of the streets, regenerating of the wharves and docks, paving, and many other things, all of which have been done with such promptness, have been such an object lesson to the inhabitants that even at this early date few, if any, would be willing to return to Spanish rule; and the demonstrations that have taken place at banquets and other meetings show that General Wood has won his way into the hearts of these people, although representing a conquering army. His original appointment and its renewal bring great satisfaction, and have proven the wisdom of the administration in the selection.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit to Washington as a member of the Canadian treaty Commission is a matter of the highest importance. It will be remembered that a Commission representing both the United States and Canada has held sittings in Canada and our country and exhaustive testimony has been taken concerning matters of trade about which there has been more or less friction for years. Sir Wilfrid has consistently fought for more intimate trade relations for years and the present friendly disposition on both sides of the great lakes makes this an opportune time to construct a fair and equitable agreement. In the presence of President McKinley the other day Sir Wilfrid said that the British Empire and the United States are now united by the strongest bonds of brotherhood; and that henceforth the stately banner and the union jack will float side by side in defence of right and justice. There are so many conflicting interests to be thought of on both sides the line that the Commission's success can be but partial; but it has effectually cleared the ground for future understanding.

Just as the work of the Commission is to be made public the country is filled with pain to learn of the death of the American Commissioner Hon. Nelson Dingley of Maine. In his death the whole nation as well as his native State meet with a loss hardly to be recovered. No public man had so many heartfelt tributes paid to his memory as this plain unostentatious political student who has directed the Ways and Means Committee in Congress. His colleague, Congressman Burleigh of Maine sums up his character as follows:

"The death of Mr. Dingley is an irreparable loss, not only to his own State but to the whole country. He was a broad gauged statesman. No man in Congress approached him in range of accurate information upon the great public questions of the day. He was a clean, able, progressive man, a fine type of the true Christian gentleman. In my short service in Congress I have often been to him for counsel and advice and have been constantly indebted to him for many kindly acts. He was a man of untiring industry, with an almost phenomenal capacity for hard work and yet he was never too busy to maintain a thoughtful interest in those about him. It is not an easy matter to analyze a character like Mr. Dingley's. He was a many-sided man. The whole country feels a sense of his loss. To the members of his delegation his death comes with the force of a personal bereavement. The country does well to honor his memory, for in his death it has lost an eminent public man, a true patriot who commanded in a marked degree the sincere respect of his countrymen, irrespective of party affiliations, and whose untimely death in the very meridian of his powers will be universally mourned."

The condition in the far east remains practically unchanged. Aguinaldo still threatens, should not full independence be given the Filipinos, who at the present time are certainly unfitted for self-government. An expedition was sent from Manila to take possession of Hilo, the second port of the islands, but the Spanish general surrendered a day before the arrival of the Americans. The insurgents at this writing have possession of the city and threaten its destruction by fire, for which the buildings have been prepared by "kerosening," should the American force land. Meantime Aguinaldo puts out proclamations most hostile to the Americans and is evidently preparing for resistance. In many quarters it is believed that Germany is interfering and plotting against us, but this is most indignantly denied by all German authorities.

The course of anti-expansionists in Congress naturally gives these insurgents great hopes. Instead of assisting President McKinley and promptly aiding him in his endeavors to do what is best for the advancement and civilization of these heathen people, a few senators are opposing every movement. It is easily understood that the Philippines came to us by the

chance of war and that their conquest was unlooked for; but now they are in our hands we must hold them at least until such time as they are capable of self-government. They cannot be given back to Spain, we cannot allow European countries to divide them, the natives are incapable of proper self-government. The only thing left is to have firmness enough to hold them until they can be released with safety. Although these "antis" are opposed to the administration, they offer no remedy for the state the islands would be left in were the present policy given up. It is always easier to do a destructive statesman than a constructive one; easier to pick to pieces and tear down, than to create and build. Numerous canvasses of leading papers and representative bodies of men show that the people are overwhelmingly in favor both of colonial expansion and giving the administration a free hand to work out the destiny of these people unhampered by unmeaning criticism.

The promotion of Ambassador Hay to be Secretary of State left the ambassadorship to Great Britain vacant and many prominent men have been named for the position. The President has appointed Hon. Joseph H. Choate of New York to fill this position. Mr. Choate has been the most prominent member of the New York bar for years and is a highly-cultured orator. He was very warmly supported for the Senate and would have made a formidable rival to Chauncey M. Depew, upon whom the choice has fallen, had he not been selected for foreign service. Mr. Choate will maintain the high standard that has been set by the previous Ambassadors at the Court of St. James, a record which should cause every American a feeling of pride and pleasure.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof tan color, genuine Davis Cover Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproofed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for either rain or snow, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to \$5.00, and Made-to-Measure suits and Overcoats at from \$5.00 to \$10.00, write for Free Book No. 50 B. Address:

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send for new information how to remove it easily and effectually without chemicals or instruments. Correspondence confidential in plain sealed envelope Mrs. M. N. PERRY, A-71 Box 93, Oak Park, Ill.

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[We recommend above Company as thoroughly reliable.—Editor.]

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NEW BIG RANGE by freight, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, the greatest value you ever saw or heard of. Equal ranges OTHERS SELL AS HIGH AS \$30.00 AND \$40.00. OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$18.95. And freight charges. THIS STOVE WEIGHS 440 POUNDS and the freight will average: 100 miles, \$5 to \$6; 200 miles, \$6 to \$7; 300 miles, \$7 to \$8; 400 miles, \$8 to \$9; 500 miles, \$9 to \$10; 600 miles, \$10 to \$11; 700 miles, \$11 to \$12; 800 miles, \$12 to \$13; 900 miles, \$13 to \$14; 1000 miles, \$14 to \$15; greater distances in proportion.

THIS STOVE IS MADE FOR US UNDER CONTRACT by 33 practical stove makers who recently joined together and opened a foundry, we taking every stove they make. Every man working on these stoves is a high-class mechanic, interested in the foundry and the work, and, as a result, turns out the best made, handsomest finished and most durable range on the market. FOR SPOT CASH we take every stove these 33 men make, we get them at the lowest price ever known for such a stove. **\$18.95 PRICE** is actual cost to us, without our one small profit added.

THE BIG RANGE is very latest 1899 style, made from Canadian stove pipe iron, in No. 4 size, 6-hole; has square oven 19x19 inches. BURNS ANYTHING—hard coal, soft coal or wood. WE FURNISH FREE an extra wood grate. One of the handsomest ranges made; has extra high ornamental shelf, has extra large, deep enameled reservoir large flues, cut top, extra heavy lids and centers, sectional fire back, cemented top oven plate, beautiful nickel finish, large nickel plated panel ornamentation on oven door, reservoir extension and stove door and back shelf, nickel oven shelf, nickel tea shelves, nickel towel rod, hand burnished edges. Range stands on handsomely ornamented base and is in every way as complete and perfect as any range ever made.

WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every range. We guarantee it to reach you in perfect order, and we can don't delay. Write for FREE **SEARS ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.**

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You can tell whether your heart is affected better than a physician. The signs and symptoms are sure and certain. If you have any one of the following symptoms, you are in grave danger, and may be the next victim to drop dead.

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Fluttering, Palpitation, or Skipping Beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); Shortness of Breath from going up stairs, walking, etc.; Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep; Dreaming, Nightmare; Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Dropsy; Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs); Neuralgia Around the Heart; Sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

MEDICINE SENT FREE. I have a positive cure in my Heart Tablets for this most dreaded of all diseases. I am daily curing hundreds of men and women. To show my confidence in my Heart Tablets, I will send, postpaid, a box for trial absolutely free to any sufferers who will send their name and address. This liberal offer should be accepted at once, because heart disease is always fatal, and death comes like a flash of lightning. Enclose stamp for postage. Address: **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Lock Box 062 Augusta, Maine.**

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Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only \$1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for \$1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address **GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.**

THE CANARY ISLANDS.

WRITER: FOR COMFORT.



THE Canaries lie in the Atlantic Ocean, just off the west coast of Africa, in latitude 28 deg. north. They consist of seven islands, all of which are of volcanic origin, and all show large areas of bare, volcanic rock. Each island, however, has its peculiar characteristics of relief, soil, and climate, and the traveler is never wearied by monotony. There is ever something new to attract, something strange to amuse the foreigner upon these shores.

The climate at the sea-level is delightful, being very mild and equable, the temperature averaging sixty-four degrees Fahrenheit the year round. Even the nights vary little from the day in warmth, and a sheet is the only covering ordinarily required on the beds.

The derivation of the original people of these islands, the Guanches, is unknown, although they are supposed to have wandered here from the north of Africa. These Guanches were conquered by the Spaniards in 1493. Many of them were slain, others sold into captivity, and the remainder intermarried with their conquerors, and so gradually lost their identity. The present race of natives resemble their Spanish ancestor in form and feature, and speak the Spanish language, but they are darker skinned, and far more sweet and gentle in disposition.

The war in Cuba was deeply felt in this far-away province, as the people of the Canaries were heavily over-taxed to obtain the means to carry it on. Large demands, too, were made on the men for soldiers, and so great is the scarcity of money that even the wealthiest Canarians found it difficult to raise the five hundred dollars necessary to free their sons from this duty. This is the more unfortunate as the quiet, country lives and the gentle dispositions of these people totally unfit them for war and fighting.

The vegetation of the islands is arranged, as it were, in zones, according to the height above the sea. The lowest zone produces the date palm, the sugar cane and other tropical plants; higher up flourish the grape vine, olive and maize; while the highest summits are barren naked rocks. Owing to the climate and soil three crops a year are raised in some parts of the islands. The lower classes live very inexpensively on fish, potatoes and *gofio*, which is merely Indian corn or wheat roasted, ground, and kneaded with water or milk.

Teneriffe, the largest and most thickly settled of these islands, is of irregular shape, sixty miles in length, with an extreme breadth of thirty miles. It is covered by mountains and piles of rock—trachite, greenstone and tufa—however, so that not more than one seventh is fertile land. A chain of mountains runs its entire length, and in the middle of its broadest part rises the celebrated Peak of Teneriffe, which, with its support and spire, occupies nearly two thirds of the whole island. The Peak has a double top. The highest point, El Piton, is twelve thousand two hundred feet above the level of the sea. The other, Chahorra, connected with the first by a short, narrow ridge, has a height of nine thousand eight hundred and eighty feet, and both are orifices in the same mountain of trachyte. Neither reaches the line of perpetual snow, although snow lies upon them four months of the year. There is, however, upon El Piton, an immense cavern, eleven thousand feet above the sea, where snow lies continually.

The Peak is surrounded by a mountain wall, six thousand feet above the sea, which forms the rim of an ancient crater within which the present cone was built up from ashes, pumice stone and lava thrown up by eruptions. Both El Piton and Chahorra have craters from which issue steam and a little sulphurous vapor, but there are no accounts in history of eruptions from either crater of the Peak, although at various times lava in great quantities has issued from vents in its sides.

The ascent of the Peak is made from Oratava, a large town on the northern side of the island. From twenty to twenty-four hours are occupied in the ascent. The town of Oratava is situated in the most beautiful part of the



DRAGON TREE—TENERIFFE.

island, about a thousand feet above the sea. The houses are solidly built, the water flows through every street, but the place has a deserted look. A fine, hard, broad road, macadamized in the most approved fashion, connects it with Santa Cruz de Santiago on the southern side of the island. This road is about twenty-six miles long, and so great was the expense of building it that it is popularly said to be paved with gold.

Santa Cruz is the present capital of the islands, and the residence of the Governor-general, who is also the civil lieutenant-governor of the Teneriffe district and the military governor of this island. It is a well-built and fairly clean town of ten thousand inhabitants, lying in a beautiful little fertile plain surrounded by bare and rugged rocks among which scarcely any vegetation is to be seen except thorny cacti and euphorbia, which latter gives a peculiar red tinge to the rocks upon which it flourishes. Inside the city

boundaries the streets are paved with cobblestones, very rough and uneven; the streets are narrow, too, and their gutters run directly in the middle, and not at the sides, as with us; these gutters are, however, very shallow, and the donkeys and mules, which are the principal beasts of burden, do not seem to mind them in the least. Horses are only used for coaches and cabs.

The houses in the cities, both on this island and Grand Canary, are built of white plaster, with flat roofs which are surrounded by a wall to protect those who walk and sit upon them. In the country, however, the old style of peaked roofs covered with red tiles still prevails. The city houses are generally low, with the second story overhanging the first, and adorned with balconies. These balconies are the favorite resort of lovers. Here sits the lady, while her adorer, in the street below, stands gazing at her, sometimes for hours; she, meantime, encouraging him by coy, amorous glances and winking smiles.

The climate is dry and warm, and rain falls, on an average, only about thirty-six days of the year. Much ground in the neighborhood is planted with the prickly pear for the cultivation of the cochineal insect.

Laguna, on the road to Oratava, is on much higher ground than Santa Cruz, and the summers are cooler, making it a popular summer resort for the wealthy residents of the latter place. Its winters are cold and damp, and a great quantity of rain falls, the plain being often flooded by it. The cause of this excessive rainfall is the meeting here of three aerial currents from the north, east and south-west. Owing to the extreme humidity of the air the walls and houses are covered by a thick growth of sempervivum.

Grand Canary is the most fertile island of the group. It is nearly circular in shape, and has a diameter of twenty-four miles. Its interior is simply a mass of mountains radiating to the shore, its highest peak being sixty-four hundred feet above sea level. There is plenty of water and several mineral springs on the island, but very little ground is under cultivation. Las Palmas, its largest town, and formerly the capital of the islands, is on the northern coast. It is a well-built and clean town, and abounds, as its name implies, with palm trees. Its climate is more humid than that of Santa Cruz. The Port is three miles from the city, and is reached by a steam tram, which is the nearest approach to a railroad to be seen on the islands. A fine mole extends out into the harbor for convenience in loading and unloading vessels.

The dress of the peasants of Grand Canary consists of a blouse and divided skirt, both of white cotton, no stockings, and clumsy shoes. The shepherds wear, besides their ordinary dress, a large blanket shirred around the neck.

On the islands of both Teneriffe and Grand Canary are the celebrated cave dwellings. These are simply holes in the soft volcanic rock which have been enlarged and made habitable. They are about as large as ordinary rooms, and have a door but no window. Adjacent caves serve to house the animals of the family. The inhabitants of these caves are said to be the worst of thieves, the greatest of liars and the dirtiest of mortals; but there are gradations of vice everywhere, and not all the dwellers are superlative thieves or liars. Those living near to the town of Las Palmas may perhaps merit all that can be said of them in this respect, but the dwellers in Artenaria are industrious tillers of the soil—respectable, and quite as good, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)

Ladies' A \$1. BOX Free!

To show how quickly it will cure every form of female weakness, displacements, leucorrhoea, suppressed or painful periods, etc. For a short time to introduce it the Hazeline Co., 331 Bressler Block, South Bend, Ind., will send a \$1.00 box free by mail to every lady sending her name and address. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. Write today and give it a trial. It costs you nothing.

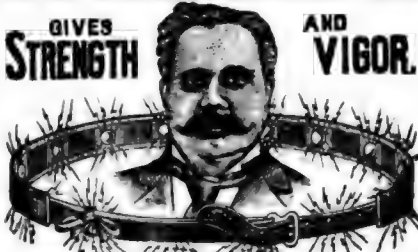
\$70 Each Month

and expenses or commission to good agents for taking up signs and introducing our wonder working rings. Write for particulars. ELECTROPATHIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

LADIES Why not make \$5 daily selling our ladies' specialties? Circulars and Catalogue free. E. J. West Mfg. Co., 231 Jackson St., Chicago.

WANTED GOOD, HONEST FARMERS not afraid to work, to sell our Graded Nursery Stock. Salary and expenses paid a steady man. FLEMER & FLEMING, Springfield, N. Y.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. 1, Brooklyn, N. Y.



30 Days' Trial

The marvelous power exerted by my Electric Belt and Appliances, induces me to offer it to suffering men on 30 Days' Trial, so certain am I that it will cure and that you will gladly pay for the use of it. Tomorrow who have battled their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgement and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Its unseen current puts life and force into whatever it touches. The constant, steady life extended by my New Electric Appliances gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Kidney Troubles, Early Decay, Night Losses, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Underdevelopment and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but WEAR IT FOR 30 DAYS and you will then realize why I have such confidence in it as to send it to you ON TRIAL. Write today for Illustrated Pamphlet with references and signed testimonials. Sent free in plain sealed envelope. PROF. A. CHRYSTAL, Inventor, 303 Postoffice Block, Marshall, Mich.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTRY



in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor-to-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES. We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the very best business men in Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to serve steady, high-class, big-paying employers. BATTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own country 300 days in the year and you can't make less than \$5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your country; a business better than a store with a \$10,000.00 stock. You will have no competitors. WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA. Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to \$5.00 and upwards; Pants from \$1.00 to \$5.00. We show a large line of suits at from \$5.00 to \$8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your country will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suits, Pants, Overcoats, etc., a book which costs us \$5.00. Also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Illustrations, Book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. Also furnish you a Salesman's Set of Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit as you wish. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$5.00 profit on every order.

\$5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES. YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver as goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit to each order, and we will send you a check for all your profit. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against men who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures as you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR \$1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to \$25.00. Which amount you can take the first day you work.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against men who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures as you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR \$1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to \$25.00. Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once. **AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and if I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show my business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.
Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.
Your age
Married or single
Address your letters plainly to
AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY WORK.

A big package of beautiful Silk Remnants, from 120 to 150 pieces, all carefully trimmed, prepared from a large accumulation of silks especially adapted for all kinds of fancy work. We give more than double any other offer, and the remnants are all large sizes, in most beautiful colors and designs. With each assortment is four skeins of the very best embroidery silk, assorted colors. Send 25 cents in silver or stamps to Paris Silk Agency, Box 3045, N. Y. City, N. Y. This concern is reliable and the package of astonishing value.—Editor.

MONEY MAKER MERRY GO ROUNDS.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES \$5 TO \$15. Bargain list free. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago.

PATENT secured or money all returned. Search free. Callers & Co. 123 E. 4th, Wash. D. C.

LADIES wanted everywhere to mail circulars, samples and copy letters at home. Reply with stamped envelope. FREELESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.

SILK DRESS FREE

A reliable firm of publishers of an old established illustrated & highly interesting story & sketch paper to advertise it are offering for annual subscriptions, handsome silk dresses full to 15 yds. This offer is open to any reliable person who will send for it at once and promise to show it with the paper. If you wish to take advantage of above silk dress offer you must first send 10 cts. silver or stamps to pay for handling & postage on the paper we send three months on trial & you will receive it by return mail. Address: HOME PUBLISHING CO., N. Y. City, P. O. Box 2523. We can show proof for thousands of dresses given away to those who have answered our advertisement. All dresses sent promptly.

MAGIC SPECTACLES



Are the latest thing out for fun or use. These wonderful eye protectors are gotten up in such a strong manner that they will be found very useful to protect the eyes from the sun or from dirt or any substance that is liable to fly into or strike the eyes. There is no pain in breaking but they are so constructed that you look through them sure as through the lens of a camera. The frames are very strongly made of heavy wire and the artistically colored revolving eyes can be made to turn in any direction, and every conceivable expression when on the face. By simply turning to right or left, or sideways, the cross-eyed dandy or cute clown can be instantly imitated and hundreds of fun be had. Or, as will be seen by the reverse side of the rubber lining centers, they are plain, useful, every day spectacles. They are having a great sale. Will send a pair free with a 6c. three months' subscription to "NATIONAL FARMER" Agent make money with them. Ask for terms when you send for trial pair. **NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.**

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots. Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

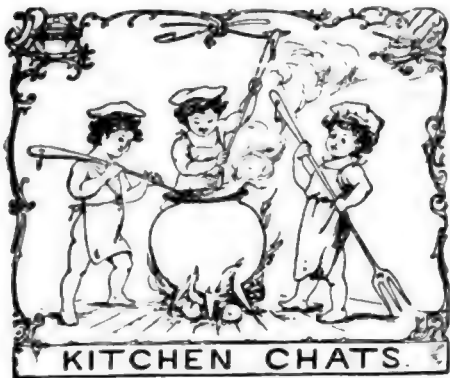
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 12x17 inches. | 1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5. |
| 1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x8 inches. | 1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15. |
| 1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x4x6. | 1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9x13x4. |
| 1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6x4x10. | 1 Rosebud Dolly, 7x4x7. |
| 1 Clover Design for Dolly. | 1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1 1/4 inches high. |
| 1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4. | 1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10. |
| 1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3x4x6. | 1 Pansy Dolly, 6x4x6. |
| 1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5x4x6. | 1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high. |
| 1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10. | 1 Border for Flannel Work, 3 1/4 inches wide, and 25 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here. |
| 1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6. | |
| 1 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dollys, 3x4x3 1/4. | |
| 1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11x4x13 1/4. | |
| 1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4. | |
| 1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9. | |
| 1 Design for Table Dolly, 6x8. | |
| 1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6. | |
| 1 Design for Butter Plate Dollys, 3x4x3 1/4. | |
| 1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5. | |
| 1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7. | |
| 1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16. | |
| 1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6x4x6 1/4. | |
| 1 Design Water Lily for Dolly. | |

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made. With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does. **AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY.** If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid. Address **COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.**

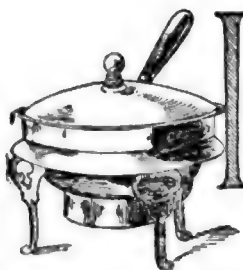
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Subscription Dept.) **COMFORT, Augusta, Me.**



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



In the chafing dish we have a real friend which grows dearer to us as we realize how much may be done with it, and what an atmosphere of hospitality surrounds it, with the sound of something good bubbling and sizzling under its glistening cover. In the evening, what can exceed the coziness of a dining-room with half a dozen congenial spirits, all hovering around the table on which, in all its glory, stands the king of the feast, presided over by the Queen. And the use of it is not limited to the evening supper alone, but may be used at the breakfast table where the eggs may be cooked in any way desired, and so be served hot and done just to a turn; and at the lunch table where hot dishes may be daintily served from it, in place of the cold meats usually served.

Some of the recipes given this month for the chafing dish may be new to our readers; we hope so—but, in any case, they are tried and true, and will bear repeating.

OYSTER RAREBIT.

Clean, parboil and drain one cup of oysters, reserving the liquor. Remove and discard the tough muscle. Melt two tablespoons butter, add one-half pound mild cheese cut in small pieces, one-fourth teaspoon salt and a few grains cayenne. As the cheese melts, add gradually the oyster liquor and two eggs, slightly beaten. As soon as the mixture is smooth, add the soft part of the oysters.

GRILLED SARDINES.

Drain twelve sardines and cook in chafing dish until heated, turning frequently. Place on small pieces of dry toast, and serve with a slice of lemon.

ENGLISH MONKEY.

Soak one cup stale bread crumbs for fifteen minutes in one cup milk. Melt one tablespoon butter, add one-half cup mild cheese cut in small pieces, and when the cheese has melted add the soaked crumbs, one egg slightly beaten, one-half teaspoon salt and a little pepper. Cook three minutes and pour over toasted crackers.

LOBSTER A LA NEWBURG.

Cut two pounds of lobster meat in slices. Melt one-fourth cup butter, add the lobster and cook three minutes. Add one-half teaspoon salt, a little cayenne, a few gratings of nutmeg, one tablespoon sherry wine and one of brandy; cook one minute, and then add one-half cup thin cream and the yolks of two eggs, slightly beaten. Stir until thickened, and serve with toast.

UNION GRILL.

Clean one pint of oysters and drain off all the liquor possible. Put oysters in chafing dish, and as the liquor flows from oysters, remove it with a spoon. Cook oysters until plump, sprinkle with salt and pepper, add two tablespoons butter and serve on crackers.

RUSSIAN SANDWICHES.

Spread crackers with thin slices of Neufchatel cheese and cover this with finely chopped olives, moistened with mayonnaise dressing. Place another cracker on this and press together.

NUT AND CHEESE SANDWICHES.

Mix equal parts of grated cheese and chopped walnut meat, and season with salt and cayenne; spread on bread cut in fancy shapes.

BROWN BREAD AND PEANUTS.

Bake the bread in one-pound baking powder boxes, and then the slices are of the right size for sandwiches. Spread and cut slices and between put layers of finely chopped peanuts seasoned with salt; or use a mixture of the nut meat and cheese, grated. Or, flake a cup of cold boiled salmon and mix it to a paste with one tablespoon mayonnaise dressing; spread on one slice, and press another slice onto it.

FIG SANDWICHES.

Use the ripe figs that come in cans. Drain them from the syrup, and then mash them to a paste, and spread over the buttered side of a slice of bread; lay another slice on top, press together, and then trim off the crusts, and, if the slices are large, cut into triangles or squares, or into oblong pieces.

DATES AND NUTS.

Remove stones and break up dates with a fork; take half as much in bulk of pecans chopped finely and mix with the dates, moistening with creamed butter. Add a little salt and spread between thin slices of bread.

The presence of the children at the table with the grown up members of the family is not always desirable—and when there is a nurse, attendant or governess who has charge of the children, there should be a separate room and table for them—for the reason, principally that the proper food for children is not, usually, that which is eaten by the father and mother, and also because the older people are apt to eat hastily, and naturally the children will acquire the same habit—will take too large mouthfuls and swallow them when not properly masticated. One result will be illness—and another will be the acquisition of an undesirable habit which it will be hard to break up.

Children are inclined to eat too fast, and require careful and constant watching to avoid this. Either let the children be served first, and the mother carefully watch and help them, and then removed from the dining-room, or

else have someone in attendance in an entirely separate room, who will give them her undivided attention.

Bread and milk tables are among the new furnishings for the nursery. They come in oak, and consist of a child's low table with two seats on opposite sides, and the seats and table are fastened together at the bottom by a rail. This arrangement prevents the spilling of the milk into the children's laps—as the chairs bring the child close up to the table.

HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8c. ts. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRY DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Prince Maximilian of Saxony, who became a priest a few years ago, has been appointed Bishop of Kulm in West Prussia.

Lazy Liver

"I have been troubled a great deal with a torpid liver, which produces constipation. I found CASCARETS to be all you claim for them and secured such relief the first trial, that I purchased another supply and was completely cured. I shall only be too glad to recommend Cascarets whenever the opportunity is presented."

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Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken, or Grip. 10c. 25c. 50c. CURE CONSTIPATION. Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York.

NO-TO-BAC Sold and guaranteed by all druggists to CURE Tobacco Habit.

\$3 a Day Sure

Send us your address and we will show you how to make \$3 a day absolutely sure; we furnish the work and teach you free; you work in the locality where you live. Send us your address and we will explain the business fully; remember we guarantee a clear profit of \$3 for every day's work; absolutely sure; write at once. ROYAL MFG. CO., Box 613, Detroit, Mich.



Number faces found.

Paper, those who win prizes will be required to get five of their friends to subscribe. Try it and see if you are one of the "Bright People." You may win the \$100. When answering, be sure and say whether you are at present a subscriber or not. Answer to-day. Address

HOUSEHOLD GUEST CO., Problem Dept. No. 33, Chicago, Ill.

\$5.00 Worth of Dressmaking Models FREE.

I am introducing an entirely new system of Model Dressmaking and will send any lady interested a complete set of models free together with full instructions in the new art. With the simple A B C directions which I send any girl or woman can for nothing learn to cut, fit and make garments with these models in a few minutes and hours what would take weeks and months, and money to accomplish by any other method. This instructor on the Model plan is the latest, most simple and most reliable tailor system of dress cutting ever invented. Only Three Measurements required. Anyone can make them without mistakes or misgivings of any kind. No time or materials wasted. No worry, no expense, no disappointments. A bad fit impossible. A perfect fit guaranteed even to a round-shouldered, hollow-cheeked, large-hipped unfortunate. In fact, it fits any figure. Thoroughly up-to-date in every way. Even if you have never made a garment you can follow any fashion plate you fancy and have the finest fitted dress, which your friends will declare was made by the most stylish experienced dressmaker if you use these models. If you are already a dressmaker and have a dozen other systems on hand don't fail to send for this Easy Model Method System. It will save experienced persons much time and money as well as beginners. This system offers young people a great opportunity for money making. Send at once for the System and get our wonderful terms. It costs you nothing to get it and you can return it without any extra expense after looking it over fifteen minutes if you do not care to enter our money-making plan.

BIG FREE OFFER.

These models are gotten up to sell for \$5.00 per set, but in order to introduce them quickly we will send one set of models to you free, all charges paid, so it won't cost you a cent to examine into the plan. The first idea was to send the models on receipt of one dollar, but many do not like to risk even one dollar without seeing the article even if sure of getting \$5.00 worth—so it was decided to trust to the honesty of the sisters to either return the models or the small amount in cash required and rely on the good words to be spoken to advertise it to others. We thus give all who see this notice a chance to inspect the great system free of charge for the next thirty days, and an offer goes with the models whereby you can secure it entirely free and make much money and secure valuable premiums taking it up and introducing to others. Don't wait, act quick before our first lot is exhausted, send your name and complete address to

"COMFORT'S" MODEL SYSTEM, Augusta, Maine.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN

We want at once reliable men in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; \$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES not to exceed \$2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.

THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

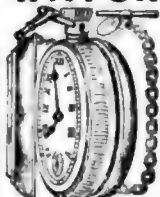
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CAMERAS, MANDOLINS, GUITARS
You can quickly earn a premium by selling a few boxes of our high-grade Toilet Soap to your neighbors. No money required in advance. Our plan the best even Boys and Girls do well. Our premiums as good as money will buy. Large illustrated list mailed free. Write today for full particulars. H. H. DAWSON SOAP CO., 90 State St., Dept. 72, Chicago.

SEND ONE DOLLAR

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this Famous Mill by freight, C.O.D. subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to Famous Mills that retail at \$30.00 to \$35.00, pay the freight agent our Special Price, \$9.90, less the \$1.00, or \$8.90 and freight charges. The mill weighs 100 pounds and the freight will be about 70 cents for 500 miles, greater or shorter distances in proportion. EVERY MILL IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE: more wind, more shake, carries more screen and will do more and better work than any mill you can buy for \$20.00. Will separate wild seed from wheat in one operation, will separate the foul seeds, such as mustard, pigeon grass, etc., from flax on once going through the mill. It is a perfect cleaner of clover and timothy. Made of the very best material. We furnish with it one wire wheat hurdle, three sieves, wheat screens, wheat grader, corn and oat sieve and barley sieve. Capacity, 90 bushels per hour. \$9.90 is our special offer price. Order at once. Write for free Agricultural Implement Catalogue. Address: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.)—CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FREE WATCH

Don't send a cent in a rare chance. For lady or gent, a heavy plated dust proof case, American movement watch with a guarantee to equal for time any solid gold watch made if you sell only 15 boxes of Vegetable Pills at 25c. each. Answer to-day & we send Pills by mail at once, when sold send us the money & we send you the watch same day money in receiver. A money order or check will do. Address: Medicine Co., Dept. W, Sta. O, N.Y.



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YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

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I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address: G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

THE CANARY ISLANDS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18.)

socially and morally, as their neighbors. Some of these cave homes, notably those of the agricultural people, are fairly well furnished, with tables, chairs, beds and dishes, and the food is various and well cooked. The women do all the work in the fields except the plowing.

Another class of cave dwellers are the potters, who make all the earthenware used on the islands. These live principally at Atalaya, on Grand Canary. They have lived here for generations, their caves having been handed down from father to son. They are very poor and ignorant, and perhaps a little rough, and they will steal if they are given a chance. They dress in cotton, originally white, but now both ragged and exceedingly dirty, as it seldom comes in contact with soap and water; but when we consider the lack of water in these cave dwellings we cease to wonder at the dirt.

The pottery is made by the women, the men doing their part by bringing the clay and the wood for the firing. When ready for work the woman is seated cross-legged on the ground, a flat stone about eighteen inches square in front of her, a lump of gray earth on one side, and an earthenware basin of water on the other. Taking a lump of clay in her hand she dampens it, rapidly rolls it into a ball, then placing it on the stone, she presses it out into a basin shape, moving it round to preserve the circular form. With more of the dampened clay she gradually increases its height, keeping the left hand always within the basin. A mouth is formed, a handle added, and in perhaps ten minutes the dish is ready to be set in the sun to dry. If adornment is wanted lines are drawn on the outside with a particular kind of smooth stone. There is no great beauty to civilized, educated eyes in these lines of ornamentation, but it is curious to observe that they are the same as those made by the old Guanches on their pottery, thus showing how little these people have changed their manners and customs. The ovens in which the pottery is baked are dome-shaped, built of stone, filled in with mud.

The other islands in this group—Palma, Lanzarote, Graciosa, Fuerteventura and Hierro, have no large cities or towns, and are not so well known as the first two. All are inhabited and somewhat cultivated, and the products are exported to the other islands. Social intercourse between the islands is very slight. Although the same nationality and speaking the same language the inhabitants of the various islands differ decidedly in habits, food and dress, and have, besides, as strong a love for their own particular island as we of the United States have for our country. As an instance of the attachment of the islanders to their own home, however poor it may be, we have only to observe the behavior of the people living in the island of Hierro. This island has neither springs, wells, lakes nor rivers, and is, in consequence, except in the rainy season, an arid desert. The people are poor, lazy and shiftless, and will not take the trouble to save water for a time of need. So they are forced to betake themselves, during the dry season, to the neighboring islands, and depend on the charity of others for food and shelter as long as the drought continues. But the moment they can safely do so they return to their barren little island and there remain until again driven off by a water famine. Fortunately for these improvident people, the dwellers on the other islands have a far larger and wider patriotism than they, always ready and willing to share their homes and food with their needy but lazy fellow-countrymen. Hence the pauper exists, and herein lies a lesson for all of us who will heed it on the evils of indiscriminate giving to the poor instead of teaching them how to do for themselves.

One of the greatest curiosities of the Canary Islands is the Dragon Tree, which is found nowhere else in the world with the exception of the northern part of Africa. It is a tree of exceedingly slow growth, living sometimes for thousands of years. Its stiff and ungainly appearance is owing in part to the branches, which are entirely bare of leaves except at the very tips where there is a tuft of long, narrow, sword-like leaves, each ending in a sharp point. Its sap is blood red and when the tree is wounded the sap oozes slowly out like the blood from a wound in human flesh. In extreme old age glandular warts form upon the tree, from three to ten inches in size. This tree never branches until after it has blossomed, and the blossoming does not take place earlier than the fifteenth year of its life. After putting out branches it never increases in height, but spreads in circumference from year to year. The name Dragon Tree was given to it by one of the old Guanches, who believed that upon their islands was situated the famous Garden of the Hesperides, and that this tree guarded with its leaves the entrance to the garden, and protected from marauders the Tree of Golden Apples which grew in the garden.

Aloes are here used for hedges along the sides of the roads. The leaves of this plant are four or five inches in length, while the blossom-stalk shoots upward, sometimes for twenty feet before developing its flowers. The leaves of this plant are used as food for goats, and also by the poorer classes as thatching for their houses. Of the fibre are made the native baskets and also ropes of various kinds.

Cochineal insects, which have long been one of the staple products of these islands, are fed upon the leaves of the prickly pear, great fields of which may be seen on the lowlands near the coast. The larvae are placed carefully upon the leaves of the plant, where they develop and grow, moving very little during their lives from the spot where they are first placed. During the rainy season the plants are tied up in cotton rags to prevent the rain from washing off the insects; sometimes a whole bush is enveloped in a rag, as shown in the initial illustration, while in other places each leaf or bunch of leaves is separately wrapped. A field of prickly pear thus enveloped is a very odd sight and the labor involved in thus caring for the insects must be very tedious and wearisome.

Upon attaining their maturity, or, as the natives say, when they become ripe, the insects are carefully picked off into baskets and dried in the sun. Then they are put into a sheet, together with a quantity of fine black sand, and shaken to and fro for a long time to give them a polish. The trade in cochineal has very sensibly diminished since the discovery of aniline dyes, but no other dye produces so brilliant a red as that derived from the cochineal insects.

The oranges of the Canary Islands have always been considered fine, but the best ones, a small, delicate fruit, are exceedingly perishable, lasting only two or three days after being

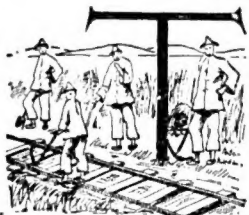
gathered, and for this reason are never shipped for market. Shipmasters who have eaten them there, and who have also had opportunities for extensive sampling of the fruit elsewhere, say that they are by far the finest oranges in the world.

Owing to the volcanic origin of these islands there is very little animal life here except what has been introduced from other lands, consequently neither ferocious beasts nor poisonous snakes are anywhere to be met with.

It is now scarcely twenty-five years since these islands became known to travelers and tourists; but so fascinating are they with their fine climate, their wild scenery and their quaint people and customs that they are fast becoming one of the world's popular resorts, and, in consequence, are rapidly losing the ancient ways of living that now make so much of their charm.

Railroads in China.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE are in all more than 400,000 miles of railroads in the world, and of this total mileage nearly 175,000 miles belong to the United States, and 150,000 miles to Europe. Of the remaining 75,000 miles only 80 miles belong to China, and even this short railroad required years of negotiation, deliberation, destruction and reconstruction to bring into existence. All the world knows of the position experienced in China by any innovation upon its customs or any novelty or improvement attempted to better its condition or to further its interests or its communication with the outside world. The first railroad line in China was started more than twenty years ago, and was intended to connect the city of Shanghai with Wusung. After it had run successfully for a year the Chinese Government bought it, and soon after the track was torn up and the materials were shipped out of the country. That was the end of that road. A second small road was built and shared the same fate, and then for a long time no further attempt was made at railroad building. Then the present road of eighty miles in length was started to run between the cities of T'ien-Tsin and Kai-Ping, under the supervision and advocacy of Li Hung Chang, the venerable Representative from China who recently visited in our country. He it is who is at the head of all the improvements which are permitted in China, and it is largely for the purpose of studying the advances made in foreign countries and applying the knowledge thus gained to the betterment of his own that this distinguished man has been making a tour of the civilized world. He has already started an extension of this small line of railroad to form a trunk line to connect the cities of T'ien-Tsin and Peking. This trunk line is, as was just said, started, but at the rate that Chinese enterprises usually move it may be twenty years before it is finished. The people of China object to any alliances or improvement of any description which tend to open up either the ports or the cities of China to outsiders, and experienced observers of Chinese character and Chinese customs and prejudices declare that there will be no work done on the railroad unless Li Hung Chang is on the spot to superintend and force the work, and that perhaps even his presence will not prevent the stoppage of work upon the road for several years to come, if, indeed, it is ever finished.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address—Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 71, Kokomo, Ind.

50 CENTS.

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this violin and outfit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, \$8.25, less the 50 cents, or \$7.75, and express charges. This is a regular \$85.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, 100 in. and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

It Pays

men with small capital to send for 356 page book that explains a way to make money with a Magic Lantern or Stereopticon. It's free. McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

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LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELER MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

BLOOD POISON HAVE YOU Sore Throat, Pimples, Copper-Colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores, Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write COOK REMEDY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill., for proofs of cures. Capital, \$500,000. Worst cases cured in 15 to 35 days. 100-page book free.

FREE TO MEN

The Private Formula of the Noted Physician, Dr. L. W. Knapp, Sent Free to Every Man who Writes for it.

Quickly Restores Weakened Mankind to Strength & Vigor.



L. W. KNAPP, M. D.

Thousands of men will welcome the news that a most successful remedy has been found which will quickly cure them of any form of nervous debility, lost manhood, lack of vigor, relieve them of all the doubt and uncertainty which such men are peculiarly liable to, and restores the organs to natural strength and vigor of youth. As it costs nothing to get this wonderful formula it would seem that any man, suffering from any form of nervous debility, ought to be deeply interested in such a remedy, without which they continue to live an existence of untold misery. The remedy in question was the result of many years' research as to what combination of medicine would be most effective in restoring to men the strength they need.

Send your name and address to Dr. L. W. Knapp, 1150 Hull Building, Detroit, Mich., stating that you are not writing out of idle curiosity, but wish to make use of the prescription by giving the remedy a trial, will be answered promptly and without evidence as to where information came from.

The Dr's object of distributing this information free is to make men better acquainted with the remedies that exert an influence upon debilitated nerves and wasted vigor. Each different drug is thoroughly explained and the sufferer will thus know what he should use in his particular case in order to get the desired results. Write to-day. There is no doubt about the offer being genuine.

PIMPLES removed in 4 days, blackheads in 6 days. Perfectly harmless. Never fails. Send 10 cts. silver. SPECIFIC REMEDY CO., Dept. K, Cleveland, O.

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A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work or salary at \$25.00 or \$100.00 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow Ct., Augusta, Me.

MIZPAH PESSARY An unexcelled Uterine Supporter. The center tube holds it in position, and it cannot become misplaced. It is soft, light, and comfortable, easily placed in position, and just as easily removed. Ask your Druggist, or send for descriptive circular to WALKER & WALKER, 512 Arch St., Phila.

TEA SET FREE 56 PIECES.

Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance to obtain this handsome china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for \$1.00. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box we will send you the money & we will send you one dozen Silver plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 55 piece china tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal arrangement every lady in the land and all who received the spoons and tea set for selling our Pills are delighted. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. F, 30 WEST 13th St., NEW YORK CITY.

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There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new All Wool Duster. Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the dustiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Ferrule, that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL. We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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THE GREATEST AND BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN ON HORSES.

A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars.

Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America has at last consented to let thirty-three cents to pay for his book. We have made arrangement to furnish copies of this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. Gleason's Horse Book is a large handsomely bound book of over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, bound in colored covers and richly and elegantly illustrated with 186 full plates and illustrations drawn by special artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the United States Government Veterinary Surgeon. In this book Prof. Gleason has given to the world for the first time his wonderful methods of training and breaking horses. It contains chapters on History, Education, Training, Tricks, How to Buy, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking and Taming, How to Detect Unsoundness, Care, Complete Instructions in Proper Horse shoeing and one that alone is worth many times the value of the book. It is a classical compendium of facts every person ought to know who is in any way interested in horses. Nothing left out. Clear, will never regret it. It is a whole Library on Horses in itself. Gleason's and has always been sold as high as \$3.50 a volume until now. Our monthly paper introduces home where an interest is taken in horses we will send a copy of Prof. Gleason's Horse Book, dear subscribers to this paper at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each we will send you the book as a free premium. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.
CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, cousins all, did you have a Happy New Year's day, and is its sunshine and cheer still making the world brighter for you? Let us hope so, and let us hope that for all the months of this New Year it will be none the less, but more. And how many of you how many times so far have written the date 1898 instead of 1899? Now let us see who comes first on the list with a question to be answered.

Well, taking the first one in the pile of letters before me, I find that it comes from away down in Louisiana where the sugar and the sunshine grow and the biting frosts that we have here in the North never come to cover the world in white. It is from "Inquisitive" and she asks about the significance of the turn-down corners of notes. Really there isn't a chief purpose of turning down a corner is to act as a seal to keep it closed, and the corner which best answers this purpose is the one to turn down. (2) A very appropriate thing for a gentleman to say when he offers his arm to a lady is: "Will you take my arm?" That ought to convey the idea very clearly. There is no fixed rule for such civilities. He might say any one of a dozen things conveying the same idea.

Goosy, Marion, Ia.—Admiral Dewey is a widower and he is not an old man. But don't set your cap for him, because it will be effort wasted, I'm pretty sure. (2) Speaking of your sweetheart, my advice to you is not to marry a man ten years younger than yourself. Such marriages are sometimes quite happy, but it isn't advisable to take the risk.

Evedne Brooke, Atwater, Minn.—I should say it was not altogether the proper thing for girls to put on boys' clothes and go out on the street at Halloween, though I have heard of nice girls doing it. Only a very bold and thoughtless girl will engage in that kind of sport, and it isn't really nice. (2) A sixteen year old girl, five feet six inches tall, should wear her gowns below her shoe tops.

Sixteen, Seventeen, and Twenty-five, Flat Hill, S. C.—A young man may call three times a week, but he will not unless he has serious intentions. (2) A young lady may ask a young man for his photograph, whether he has hers or not, but not unless they are long-time friends. The same applies to giving presents. (3) The question of the handsomeness of a man should have very little to do with a decision for your favor. Unless it be against him. As a rule the poorest husband in the world is one of these "real handsome" men. They are generally vain and selfish and other women make fools of them. Don't pick out the homeliest man you can find, but if you have to take that kind or the handsomest, take the homeliest one every time. (4) Yes, a sixteen year old girl may wear her hair in a knot. It is more becoming if worn low on the back of the head. (5) A young lady with light hair should marry a gentleman with light hair if she loves him and he asks her to. As for the physiology of it, there isn't much in that, except what you read in novels about the "affinity of contrast." (6) A young lady of twenty-five is not too young to marry a man of forty. A quiet wedding is preferable to much display.

Anxious, Vandalia, Mich.—Why should a young man have any more right to kiss a girl when sleigh riding than at any other time?

Two Girls, Summersville, W. Va.—Twelve year old girls should wear their dresses as long as their mothers say they should. (2) As for boys, twelve year old girls should wait ten years before thinking of such things.

Rosebud, Volta, Cal.—It is not improper for a young man and young lady to exchange rings, but it is just as well not to, unless they are very good friends. (2) They should not become engaged until they know each other very well. It might take three weeks and it might take three years. Let us compromise and say a year. Short engagements are better than long ones. Say three to six months, if the previous acquaintance has been a year or less. (3) It is not right for a young man to flirt with girls when he is engaged or when he is not. It is not only not right when he is engaged, but it is mean and dishonest.

Polly and Bessie, Parker's Landing, Pa.—A sixteen year old girl ought to be so busy with her school books that she would not have time to see a young man who called on her twice a week. He might take her to the theater on Saturday nights if her parents had no objections, and the young man was well known. (2) I don't know about a "grass widower" calling on a girl of eighteen. He may be a very nice man and unfortunate rather than to blame because he is a grass widower, still, a girl of eighteen had better wait, say four years. She will know more then. And in the meantime don't accept the man as an escort either to entertainments or elsewhere. If he is not divorced and perfectly free, have absolutely nothing to do with him if you think at all of yourself.

L. C. Vinton, La.—For mercantile information such as you seek, write to President King, Merchants' Association, New York City, asking for a list of firms. You can get information from New Orleans, Atlanta, Louisville, or Cincinnati, by writing to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Fanny Power, Shanesville, W. Va.—It is not customary to wear other jewelry than mourning jewelry when in mourning, which, of course, is made of various black materials. A sixteen year old girl should not wear mourning at all.

Helen and Ethel are two fifteen year old girls of Plattsburg, Mo., who write to say that they are engaged to marry two lads of eighteen and nineteen and as their mothers object, they want to know what my advice is. It is simple enough; all four of them ought to be thoroughly spanked, and Helen and Ethel sent to school until they learn the right way to spell circumstance which is not "surcumstance," even if they have to stay there forty years. My, my, but some girls are too silly for any use.

Mattie Tipton, Irvine, Ky.—The reason you see short stories published over and over again is that they are free property and editors keep them going, as they may happen to need something of that sort. You will not find the same story in the same paper more than once, I think. Sometimes you may see the same story in two or three or more papers at once, but they are far apart and such stories are sold by syndicate to several papers with that understanding. (2) Having sold a manuscript to any publisher who copyrights it, you sell also the right to use it again. It is no longer your property, even when the copyright expires, after fourteen years. (3) If you send a poem to a paper and after it is returned to you it appears in that paper, it has been stolen. That is all there is to that. (4) I don't know anything about the party you ask about.

As a general proposition it is just as safe not to give up any money until you know what you are going to get for it. (5) There isn't any "best poetess" in America or in the world at present, though there are several poetesses who write very good poetry.

Two Cousins, Big Rapids, Mich.—Yes, it is proper to correspond with one young man when "keeping company" with another, but not if you are engaged to the other. (2) It is a lady's place to pay her own hotel bill.

Rose, Otho, Ky.—A fourteen year old girl should wear her dresses to her shoe-tops, and she should not go driving with a gentleman unless it is her father or some other near relative.

Margie, Applegarth, Md.—Girls of seventeen have had beaux and even husbands, but it is not a custom to be commended. Wait till you are past twenty. (2) Make the young men keep their distance. Every liberty you permit makes the man have that much less respect for you, and he is telling you a lie if he says it does not. That is to say if the man is decent. If he isn't, you should have nothing to do with him. (3) Use your own judgment and taste in making a present to your "beau," but let it be inexpensive. Give him some little thing for personal use.

There, dears, that is the last one, and while some of them have been a little silly and too much about beaux, they are generally very much like girls, and goodness knows I'd rather see you silly girls than foolish women, for a silly girl can be cured if taken in time. Now, by-by for a month and may the good Lord watch over you until we meet again.
COUSIN MARION.

\$2.00 ASTROLOGICAL READING FREE.

I will send full life reading and answer all questions with pen picture of future affinity for 10 cts. (postage expenses). Give date of birth. It may mean wealth and happiness. Ad. Prof. A. E. Ellis, Philadelphia, Pa.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.
S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

Scientists claim that there are two parts to our brains, one for dreams and one for day thoughts.

LADIES I Make Big Wages

At Home—and want all to have the same opportunity. It's VERY PLEASANT work and will easily pay \$15 weekly. This is no deception. I want money and will gladly send it to all sending me 20c stamp. Mrs. A. H. Higgins, Box 18, Lawrence, Mich.

MY SON WAS A DRUNKARD.

I cured him with a perfectly reliable, safe and secret remedy. I have also cured others. Will gladly send recipe free. Mrs. E. M. Demarest, 276 South 2d St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Cut this ad out and send to us, and we will send you this SINGLE BUGGY HARNESS by express C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to harnesses that total at \$12.00 to \$15.00 and the GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER SAW, pay your express agent our special price, \$8.95, and express charges, less the \$1.00 sent with order. This is an extra high-grade Single Harness, made from extra heavy selected Dundee Oak Tanned Leather, has heavy single strap saddle, round patent leather jockey. TRACES are extra heavy, raised round edges 1 1/2 in. wide. BRIDLE—Extra high grade, side rein or overcheck, as desired, full box loops, heavy nose band, round winker braces, initial rosettes, fancy head piece. BRISTLE COLLAR—Extra heavy folded with layer, large box loops, folded neck strap. BRUSHING—Very heavy folded, heavy layer, 5-ring strap, heavy hip and side straps, extra heavy Griffin belly band. LINES—Extra heavy select stock, black or tan, 1/2 in. in handparts, with spring billets. TRIMMINGS—Extra heavy nickel plate or Davis black rubber, as desired. Harness weighs about 20 lbs. Express charges for 200 miles, \$5.00; 400 miles, \$6.00. Greater distances in proportion.

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SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. Wright Was Restored to Health and Makes a Generous Offer.

George B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years, offers to send the medical prescription that effected the cure to every reader of COMFORT who



is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of des-

peration, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form, quack doctors, who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself, but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, box 1210, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

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The heroic endeavors of the medical profession saved many of those who were stricken with La Grippe, but in most of those cases the saving of life was but to prolong the misery, for it is well known that wherever the monster sets its seal, it is sure to leave unfavorable results, but in the past record of the distemper it has been proven that that little plain, simple tablet called OXIAN, had a large sized mission to perform in this one particular, and how well it did its duty is attested by the numerous letters received from our grateful friends. OXIAN probably did more to ward off La Grippe, lessen the suffering, and effect a complete cure than any or all of the advertised remedies.

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Do not wait until La Grippe has you in bed or on the way to the grave, for the Giant OXIAN Co., Augusta, Maine, will send you without charge a sample package if you apply this month, together with new special directions so you can use it as a hot beverage.

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AGAIN IN ITS GRASP. Tightening its coils, we mean that sneezing, coughing, back-aching malady—that creeps stealthily on its victim, bears him down for a time and when confident of recovery takes him from our midst—epidemic, influenza or La Grippe.

In this land, as in others, it sneered at the attempts of our scientists and medics to arrest its terrible course. In a twinkling, in '91, old, middle aged and young were seized as victims and struggling in its grasp.



Fully 60 per cent. were destined never to recover. Many families were extinguished entire. Many were torn apart and the few remaining members left with the memories of a once happy home. Thousands were brought to a bed of suffering for the remainder of their life. Thousands more were left subjects for the mad house.

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Do not wait until La Grippe has you in bed or on the way to the grave, for the Giant OXIAN Co., Augusta, Maine, will send you without charge a sample package if you apply this month, together with new special directions so you can use it as a hot beverage.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The State Superintendent of Public Instruction in the state where women vote is a woman. Colorado people believe that the office has never been better conducted than during the regime of Grace Espy Patton. The "Little Professor" as she is admiringly termed, has chosen women as her assistants in the duties of the one office in the state held by a woman. The deputy superintendent, assistant librarian and clerk look after the routine duties of the office in an efficient manner that has silenced all jesting criticism as to the ability of four women.

The State Superintendent in Colorado is a member of the State Land Board, the State Board of Examiners and the State Board of Education and is also ex-officio State Librarian. She must visit the different counties of the state, address Teachers' Institutes, speak at commencement exercises and in all ways further the general educational interests of the state. "Professor Patton" was filling a position in the Agricultural College when she was elected to the first educational place in the state. She is a ready speaker, practical, energetic and thoroughly business-like. By many she was considered a typical "new woman," with all the common sense and independence that the term suggests. She drew her \$3,000 salary, made sweeping reforms in the administration of her office and carried out her own ideas without fear or favor.

The outbreak of the war upset all these theories of an emancipated new woman, for Miss Patton promptly and suddenly married Captain Warren Hayden Cowles of the Regular Army, to whom she had long been engaged. This act involved a legal point, for it was Grace Espy Patton whom the voters of Colorado had elected. The Attorney General declared there was no precedent for an office holder changing names and that she must perform her official duties under the name she bore when elected. Whether as "Mrs." or "Miss" it is certain that the State Superintendent of Education in the Centennial State will efficiently do the work she was selected to perform.

Samuel P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, has succeeded in making a flying machine that has actually flown three-quarters of a mile. The United States Board of Ordnance has appropriated \$25,000 for the further perfection of the idea. It is believed that a machine capable of carrying a man and of dropping high explosives into an enemy's camp is practical. The machine is called an aerodrome and in flight it looks like a huge fourteen foot bird.

Prof. Langley, like Darius Green of flying machine fame, is a Yankee. He was born in Roxbury, Mass., sixty-four years ago. He graduated at the Boston Latin School and later at the English High School. He did not pursue a college course but at once devoted himself to the study of astronomy. He made a journey in Europe and upon his return received an appointment in the observatory at Cambridge. Afterwards he was in turn Professor of Mathematics at the Naval Academy at Annapolis and Professor in the Western University of Pennsylvania. He became connected with the Smithsonian and it was his influence that led to the establishment of the National Zoological Park. He has received honorary degrees from the Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin, Harvard and Princeton. The leading scientific associations of the world have bestowed every honor at their command upon Professor Langley. He is a man of most winning address and has the respect and affection of all his business associates. It is his high scientific standing and the success he has already attained that leads the Board of Ordnance to believe he will reach a practical solution of the great problem of a flying machine.

"Cryano de Bergerac" has scored the greatest success of any play in years. Richard Mansfield is presenting the romantic poem as a play

in all the large cities and hundreds are turned away daily, unable to secure a seat. The author of the play is Monsieur Edmond Rostand of Paris. One year ago his fame did not extend beyond Paris. To-day no author in the world is better known. It is the phenomenal success of "Cyrano" that has brought fame. M. Rostand is but thirty years of age. His family are noted for their practical grasp of affairs. M. Rostand was educated in Paris where he prepared for the practice of law but the poet nature rebelled against the routine and in 1890 he made his first venture in literature. These plays had been written and acted upon the Paris stage before the great success of "Cyrano" made its author world known. M. Rostand is not a rich man although his lavish expenditure of the money that has come to him has led many people to think he is. He phrases it "only a spend-thrift." "Cyrano" is founded upon actual history, but the romance, the poetry of the play make its success in this matter-of-fact age somewhat remarkable.

A. H. Savage Landor, who is making a lecture tour in England and will soon come to this country, has demonstrated that even this prosaic nineteenth century has material for thrilling romances. Ever since Sir John Mandeville wrote his book of travels in the fourteenth century, restless Englishmen have been traveling and then writing about it. No stranger tale has been told in any of the centuries than Landor's adventures in the forbidden land of Thibet. No white man may enter this Asian plateau or set foot within the sacred city of Thassa on pain of death. This the young Englishman essayed to do and his adventures are set forth in a book, entitled "In the Forbidden Land. An Account of a Journey into Thibet; Captured by the Thibetan Lamas and Soldiers; Imprisonment, Torture and Ultimate Release." Mr. Landor's lecture deals with the same exciting scenes. Mr. Landor is a young man and a grandson of the famous English author of the same name. He is slight and dark with characteristics that suggest the Italians among whom he has spent the most of his life. He lives at a village near Florence where he cultivates vines and olives. This is only in the intervals between his constant travels. Intensity seems the key note to his character. To see, to know, to feel all that life can give has been the motive power to his ceaseless activity. Ordinary discomforts have no significance to him, even torture and fear of immediate death could not turn his mind from its purpose. His first journey was to the island of Yezo and a very entertaining book followed. Another trip through Japan and the East, furnished material for a number of pictures painted in those countries. These were exhibited in London. Mr. Alfred Harmsworth, a magazine proprietor of London, became interested in Mr. Landor's work and with the idea of providing "copy" for his magazine, he equipped the expedition that left England in the spring of 1897. Mr. Landor had trained himself in the use of the sextant and intended to explore the head waters of the Bramahputra. He entered the Thibetan plateau, the country of God as the Lamas call it, from northern India. He came back prematurely aged, haggard and wan. He did not reach the Sacred City but he did discover the head waters of the Bramahputra and collected some data as to mountain elevation and the location of some lakes. Within less than a year he had met adventures and horrible experiences that seem hardly possible in this century. Mr. Landor will not fail to interest people because he tells a story that has never been told before.

Mary Leiter was well known in the society of Washington and New York as a beauty and an heiress. With the Leiter millions back of her it seemed that she might make a brilliant international marriage, and when she became Mrs. Curzon the public was somewhat disappointed. A bright young Englishman but no title—and no wealth. Now Lady Curzon bows to no one except the Queen of England. As Vicereine of India she takes precedence next to

the Empress whom she represents. Her palace in Calcutta contains a throne room with an immense throne for Queen Victoria and two smaller thrones for the Viceroy and Vicereine. On state occasions Lady Curzon wears a crown. With plumes in her hair, a train of enormous length and all the jewels she can wear the Vicereine presents a really queenly air. The transformation of an American girl into a semi-royalty presents food for thought.

Occasionally the "dramatis persona" of international marriages are reversed in their national relations and it is the American man who marries the foreign woman. This has been the case with Mr. William Widgery Thomas our Minister to Sweden. During his first official term at the court of King Oscar he married the charming Swedish woman whose grace and affability have been no small factors in her husband's later success. Miss Dagmar Elizabeth Tornebladh was the daughter of Dagmar Tornebladh, knight and nobleman of Sweden and manager of the National Bank of that country. Mr. Thomas speaks Swedish fluently and so effectively that the handsome fair-haired young Swedish belle consented to become his wife in 1889. She has since then resided some time in this country where her tact, her sunniness and her warm-hearted courtesy made her scores of friends in the land of her adoption.

There were many acts of heroism and self-denial in the late war that have been unheralded by the newspapers. The search light of publicity has hardly been thrown upon the woman whom the soldiers named the "Good Angel of Porto Rico." Margaret Astor Chanler bears a well-known name and is a great-great-granddaughter to the original John Jacob Astor. She inherits the Astor wealth and has a personal income of \$30,000 per year. She also inherits the restless activity that must see, know, do for itself. Her brother has made a name as an explorer as well as for fitting out a regiment and winning a seat in Congress. Miss Chanler entered the service as a volunteer nurse. No duty was too hard for this delicately reared woman. By the operating table, in fever haunted camps and in camps of detention she worked. Life to her means the reality of struggle, heroism, self sacrifice and even death if it chances. Miss Chanler has made no public parade of her work. She has given freely of her wealth and she has illustrated the truth "He gives twice who gives himself." She is a tall, slender woman, brown haired and brown eyed, with the earnest, thoughtful look of those who know from personal experience that life is real, life is earnest.



Mexico is the only republic of Spanish origin that has a government in any degree stable. General Porfirio Diaz is at the head of 15,000,000 of people—yet no humble laborer works harder than this man. General Diaz is of mixed Spanish and Indian blood and shows the best traits of both races. He fought his way upward step by step. He studied law and in order that he might obtain money to buy books he taught other lads. He advised one poor young man, "Do as I did. Study nights until two or three o'clock in the morning with your head bound up in a towel." At the head of a great sister republic, General Diaz has not given up the habits of untiring diligence that led him to the top round of success. He has the habit of giving his entire attention to the matter of the moment. It is this ability to concentrate and force his attention that gives him his facility in disposing of an amount of work that would overpower other men. He is fond of society, affable and courteous, but is obliged to forego much social intercourse in order to meet the demands of his position. General Diaz is an advanced thinker. He is progressive, a student of the age in which he lives and of his fellow-men. He is slowly evolving a "Modern Mexico" out of the old Spanish colony. It is in part owing to the personality of Diaz that Mexico seems at last to have a stable form of government.

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SANTER, KAN., Jan. 5, 1899.
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Gentlemen:—I have been handling clothing for a number of years with different firms, and would say that the past two seasons with you people have given better satisfaction and afforded me more pleasure in doing the work than any and all the clothing firms that I ever worked for.
Your work has given entire satisfaction to all patrons without a single exception. S. S. COMER.
A 1000 similar testimonials. The editor of this paper vouches for our reliability.

A \$5 Woolen Skirt for \$1.98
Nothing to pay until you have seen and examined this garment at your express office. It is made of black wool puplin material, in newest figures, latest cut, good percaline lining, finished seams. It exactly as represented pay the agent and charges and take the skirt or send amount and 35¢ postage and we will send it by mail. Charges paid. Be sure to register your name for our new Spring and Summer catalogue which will be issued on March 15th, and if you are interested in winter goods, write for our Clearing Sale Winter Catalogue. Address, **M. PHILIPSON, 138 State Street, Chicago.** Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Reversible LINENE Collars and Cuffs.
Stylish, convenient, economical. Made of fine cloth, finished in pure starch, and exactly resemble fashionable linen goods. **No Laundry Work** When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25cts. By mail, 30cts. Send 6 cts. in stamps for sample collar and pair of cuffs. Name size and style. **REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.** RUBENY, DANTE, TASSO, W. HILL, ANGELO RAPHAEL.

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Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this **CORN SHELLER** by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to Shellers that retail at \$10.00 to \$12.00, pay the railroad agent our special offer price, **\$5.00**, less the \$1.00, or **\$4.00** and freight charges. The Sheller weighs 135 pounds and the freight charges for 500 miles will be about 75 cents, greater or shorter distances in proportion. **THIS IS THE BEST ONE-HOLE CORN SHELLER ON THE MARKET.** Very strong, durable and easy to operate. Frame is made of hard wood and shelling of rolled steel, balance wheel is large and heavy, which makes it the easiest running sheller made, has adjustable iron; will shell any kind of corn. Comes with fan and feed table complete. Shelling capacity, 25 bushels per hour. **ORDER AT ONCE!** don't delay. Write for free Agricultural Illustration. Address, **Sears Roebuck & Co. (INC.) CHICAGO.** (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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